Thursday, April 26, 2012 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 137 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ DN BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

HEETINGS GALORE President Aquino arrives at President's Hall in Malacañang on Wednesday for an economic conference but decides to call for a private meeting in another room with some of his officials before meeting the rest of the Cabinet. Other Cabinet secretaries in photo are (from left) Cayetano Paderanga, Cesar Purisima, Rogelio Singson, Jesse Robredo, Julio Abad, Rizky Corumdang, Edwin Lacierda and Butch Abad.

P-Noy takes Grace Lee to Brasil '12 concert

By Pocholo Concepcion
Entertainment

A DOSE of bossa nova on a hot summer night wouldn't hurt.

President Aquino had a welcome respite from the sweltering weather and dealing with the country's problems when he spent some two hours indulging in one of his passions, music.

He was in the company of his constant date, radio-TV personality Grace Lee, at the Sergio Mendes and Brasil 2012 concert on Tuesday night at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

People learned that Mr. Aquino would be watching the show because of the presence of the Presidential Security Group in and around the Big Dome.

Those seated at court side were eager to take photos of the couple, but were disap-

PINOY SWEEPS A11

Gov't to replace ARMM

PH panel, MILF agree on new political entity

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE GOVERNMENT and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have agreed to create a new autonomous political entity to replace the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), moving closer to a peace agreement that could bring development to the war-torn, impoverished Philippine south.

Speaking from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a day after the government and the MILF concluded the 27th round of talks, government chief negotiator Marvic Leonen said yesterday that the two sides had signed a document that contained their "decision points on principles." Those points, he said, would guide discussions on the substantive agenda of the peace negotiations.

GOV'T, MILF A7

ON THE SIDELINES Transportation Secretary Mar Roxas and Presidential Management Staff Chief Julia Abad keep a low profile before the start of the economic cluster meeting held in Malacañang on Wednesday.

Pinoy chef serves PH secret cuisine wonders

ANGELES CITY—Claude Tayag sees himself as a food missionary, hoping to convert people at home and abroad to the secret cuisine wonders of the Philippines.

The Southeast Asian nation's table-fare has long suffered a poor reputation internationally compared with its regional neighbors.

Across the world, Indian curry houses compete with Vietnamese

PINOY CHEF, A10

At 'Karburo,' Pinoys fish, laugh, eat, drink with Chinese, Viet fishermen

By Robert Gonzaga
Inquirer Central Luzon

MASINLOC, Zambales—In a place 12 hours away by motorized outrigger from this town's coastline, which locals call "Karburo," fishermen from the Philippines, China, Vietnam and Taiwan peacefully coexist and share the bounties of the sea.

On several occasions, Mario Fromen, 54, said he and his fellow Filipino fishermen, after a hard day at sea, would board foreign fishing vessels to share

AT KARBURO A16

China rejects PH bid to bring shoal dispute to int'l court / A16

Land distribution is no Amorsolo work; back farmers, P-Noy urged

By TJ Burgonio

LAND DISTRIBUTION to workers in Hacienda Luisita isn't as "simple" as Amorsolo's depictions of viñorillas, but filled farming in his paintings, Agrarian Reform Secretary Virgilio de los Reyes said yesterday.

"We should distribute our actual shot this is like an Amorsolo painting, where someone is playing the guitar while the farmers are harvesting," Delos Reyes said by phone. "It's a long and tedious process. It's not going to happen in an instant."

Christine Mirawod, pro bono lawyer for the farmers, couldn't agree more.

In a news conference yesterday, Mirawod urged President Aquino to mobilize support for the workers in his family's sugar hacienda during a difficult transition period to enable them to start as farmer-cultivators after the Supreme Court issued a final ruling on Tuesday calling for the estate's distribution to them.

"This is an opportunity for him to show concern for the agrarian reform program," said

LAND, A17

'It's the end of three generations of slavery'

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

HACIENDA LUISITA, Tarlac—Ace Luna and his son, Elmer, received a lecture of aggravate yesterday, siphoning the dark brown and stinking water drained from the Central Azucarera de Tarlac, a sugar mill owned by the family of President Aquino.

"I don't feel like a slave anymore," said Luna, 45. His 22-year-old son used a shovel to gather the soil as sizzles to trap the water near the canes.

In a bar in Barangay Balitu, where the Aquinos ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita (Ambala) is holding office, around 50 people gathered yesterday, some as early as 6 a.m., to celebrate what Feliz Nargil Jr., Ambala

IT'S THE END, A17

BULLS-EYE A bullet would have hit the author and granddaughter but his car shielded them both. (See story on Page A16.)

'I became convinced that the strafing had targeted our house'

PUBLIC LIVES
Randy Datoil

THE OTHER night, just before 9, a gunman shouted a heavily tinted vehicle fired four shots in the direction of my house inside the University of the Philippines campus. Because the bullets hit something very close to where I was at the time, I instinctively ducked but didn't feel alarmed. I was quite sure the shots were not meant for me or my wife, or anyone living in the house. I do not know why anyone would have any motive to frighten or hurt me. I called the campus police and reported the matter. Then I decided to go eat and check.

PERSONAL, A12

NEWS 11 soldiers, 2 others die in Ifugao ambush / A4

WORLD It's Romney vs Obama in Nov. polls / A24

NATION Kabankalan City judge killed / A8

METRO Panama diplomat nabbed, accused of rape by Pinay / A21

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

6/26	
3 D	3 6 3 8
4 D	7 14 20 27 38 44
SUPERLOTTO 6/49	P14,604,753.60
6/55 GRAND LOTTO	2 5 7 15 23 50
	P86,822,272.80

Tension rises over war games

Drill hikes risk of armed conflict, says Chinese military

ULUGAN BAY, Palawan—Thousands of American and Philippine troops waded ashore on Wednesday in a mock assault to retake a small island in the South China Sea as tensions bubbled over rival claims to disputed areas rich in oil and gas.

The drill, part of annual US-Philippine war games on the western island of Palawan, comes after the Chinese military announced last month that the exercise raised the risks of armed confrontation over contested areas of the South China Sea, which the Philippines calls West Philippine Sea.

On the weekend, the Chinese newspaper Global Times warned of a potential "small-scale war" between China and the Philippines as a result of a standoff between the two countries over Scarborough Shoal, a group of half-submerged rock formations 124 nautical miles (223 kilometers) west of Luzon.

The Department of Foreign Affairs called the Global Times' warning "irresponsible," and declined to comment.

Boarding by Chinese fishermen led to the standoff at the area the Philippines calls Bajo de Masinloc (Lower Masinloc), the shallows luring pairs of Masinloc town as the coast of Zambales province.

China has territorial disputes with the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan across the South China Sea, each searching deeper into disputed waters for energy supplies while building up their navies and military alliances.

On Wednesday, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Cui Tiankai said China was committed to dialogue and diplomacy to resolve sovereignty disputes in the region. But Cui also said China did not start the current standoff.

"We are certainly worried about the South China Sea issue," Cui told a news briefing in Beijing, saying "some people tried to take two convicted things, territorial sovereignty and freedom of navigation."

The statements come before high-level talks with the Obama administration. China, which claims the South China Sea as its territory based on historical records, has sought to resolve disputes bilaterally but its assertiveness has worry over what some see as growing Chinese assertiveness in its claims in the region.

US President Barack Obama has sought to reassure regional allies that Washington would serve as a counterbalance to China in the South China Sea, part of his campaign to "pivot" US foreign policy toward Asia after years in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Philippine military officials sought to play down the exercise. Lt. Gen. Jaime De Sabban, military commander for the western Philippines, said the drill with US troops, called Balikatan (shoulder to shoulder) 2012, was routine.

"Simply means we want to work together, improve our skills."

The drill coincides with the standoff between Chinese and Philippine vessels near Scarborough Shoal, some 198 kilometers (123 miles) from Subic Bay.

Subject's area of command includes Scarborough and the Spratlys, a group of 250 mostly uninhabitable islets spread over 427,200 square kilometers (165,000 square miles) west of Palawan.

The Spratlys are claimed entirely by China, Taiwan and Vietnam and in part by Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines.

AN AMERICAN soldier emerges from the water in a mock battle to retake an island.

Oil, gas reserves

Powers and undiscovered oil reserve estimates in the South China Sea range as high as 213 billion barrels of oil, the US Energy Information Administration said in a 2008 report. That would surpass every country's proven oil reserves except Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, according to the BP Statistical Review.

A Philippine exploration firm, Philex Petroleum Corp., said last Tuesday its unit, Forum Energy Plc, found more natural gas than expected around Reed Bank, where Chinese navy vessels tried to run aside Forum Energy's survey ships last year. The Philippines is due to open oil-and-gas exploration bids in Reed Bank on Friday.

In Hanoi, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Luong Thanh Nghi reasserted Vietnam's claim to the Spratlys and the Paracel islands, known in Chinese as the Nansha islands, further west of Scarborough Shoal in what it calls the East Sea.

"Vietnam is considering and researching all means to resolve conflicts in the East Sea peacefully, including means that make use of organizations with international jurisdiction to find a lasting means acceptable to all parties concerned," he said in a statement.

Subject said the military drill was not focused on China. "Never was China even mentioned in our planning and execution," he told reporters.

The exercise would not be worried about Balikatan exercises," he said.

Nearly 5,000 American and Philippine troops were launched from US and Philippine ships in the simulated amphibious assault to recapture an island supposedly taken by militants. Reuters

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11 soldiers, 2 others die in ambush

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NOTICE OF 40th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY MADE that the **Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association, Inc. (AFPSLAI)** will hold its 40th Annual Membership Meeting on **26 May 2012**, Saturday, at 9:00 AM at the Balwagang Heneral Artero T. Emrile (AFP Museum and Multi-Purpose Theater), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City for the purpose of electing the members of the Board of Trustees for the year 2012-2013 and to transact other business.

Proxy forms are available in all our Branch and Extension Offices for those who will not be able to attend the meeting.

Registration starts at 7:30 AM and closes at exactly 8:30 AM.

(Sgd) Atty Samuel B Padilla
Corporate Secretary

MAGUINDANAO City—Eleven government soldiers were killed when some of Bangsamoro rebels ambushed the soldiers near the boundary of Gen. Salipada K. Pendatun and Mamasapano villages in Tiruray town on Wednesday, police and military officials said.

Lt. Gen. Anthony Alcantara, commander of the military's Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom), said sniper fire killed the driver of a military truck ferrying members of the Philippine Army's 64th Infantry Battalion as it passed through Sitio Bulpay between 7 and 8 a.m. on its way back to camp.

Alcantara said the driver lost control of the truck, causing it to fall down a cliff. According to initial police reports, encroaching soldiers engaged the rebels in battle, which left three more soldiers wounded.

Police said the two clan warlords, who authorities have yet to identify, may have been caught in the crossfire.

Maj. Gen. Bernard Custer, commander of the 6th Infantry Division based in Cotabato, Isabela, did not identify the fatalities, but said an Army captain and a female soldier were among those killed.

Major Gen. Eugene Balilong said the ambush took place in an isolated area in Tiruray village. The police initiated the evacuation of residents while government troops pursue suspected communist New People's Army rebels.

Chief Supt. Benjamin Magalong, Cordillera police director, and Regional Police Director Roger Billib has also ordered the setting up of roadblocks in Tinoc, Kiangan and Hungduan towns.

Gumon said the wounded soldiers were taken to the Bagio General Hospital in Laguna town.

On Saturday, the military reported that six NPA rebels were killed in a clash in Navotas, Mt. Province.

But Benon Sinagpan, spokesperson of the Cordillera People's Democratic Front (CPDF), denied that the NPA suffered casualties.

In a text message, Sangpan said: "The pronouncement of the [Armed Forces of the Philippines] that the NPA [had] incurred casualties [...] is a blatant lie and a concoction on both sides. No weapon was seized from the NPA, only a backpack." Kinyam Calloway, Elenito Caliwan and Felimon Vivian Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

6 convicted for Espinosa assassination

By Michaniel B. Mislan

A MANILA court sentenced to life imprisonment yesterday the former warden of the Muntinlupa provincial jail and three others more for the assassination of Albuera (Leyte) mayor Mesiares Espinosa Jr. more than 10 years ago.

In a 56-page decision, Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Rosalyn Ang-Lagunzad said warden Claudio Quidato, jail guards Jaquez Quidato and Rodolfo Apapa, and detainee Alex Abreu, guilty of conspiracy in the murder of Espinosa during a killing in the larger Baybay, Muntinlupa on Aug. 9, 2005.

The four men were meted reclusion perpetua (life imprisonment) and ordered to pay P5.32 million to the heirs of Espinosa.

Two others—Dindo Sior and Fio Bañiqued, both detainees at the provincial jail—were cleared for the 40-year-old being unemployed in the country.

However, the six were acquitted for the murder of three bystanders.

The judge said the prosecution had failed to prove that the suspects had intended to kill them.

The lawyer of the convicted men, Alex Abisado, lamented the verdict and vowed to appeal.

Migz to Koko: Let bygones be bygones

DAGUPAN CITY—"Let bygones be bygones," former Sen. Juan Miguel "Migz" Zubiri told Sen. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, who is serving an abbreviated senatorial term because of the former's allegedly tainted victory in 2007.

Zubiri, who was here as a guest of the Bangus Festival this past week, said it was not his fault that he was one of the "unwitting beneficiaries" of the 2007 election fraud in Maguindanao.

"Those who did it are now in jail. Let us move on from that. Let us learn from that mistake of dirty elections of 2007 and continue to push for clean and honest elections for 2013," he said.

In November 2011, a joint committee of the Commission on Elections and Department of Justice charged former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Jr. and former Comelec official Lintang Bedol for electoral sabotage for the allegedly fraudulent 2007 election in Maguindanao. Bedol was recommended for dismissal.

The three allegedly conspired and helped each other to siphon a "12-0" victory for senatorial bets from Unity senatorial candidates, reports included Zubiri.

Zubiri was proclaimed the 12th senatorial winner of that election, first he resigned in August 2007 after Bedol admitted that there was massive electoral fraud in Maguindanao.

His resignation paved the way for Pimentel, who placed 13th and who filed an electoral protest against him, to move on the little seat to have the final statistical 12th win.

Zubiri said Pimentel should stop saying that he (Zubiri) knew about the massive cheating.

He said that during the 2007 campaign, he was grouped with Senate Majority Leader Vicente Sotto III and Senators Ralph Recto, Jinkee Arroyo and Alfredo Lagman in Team Unity.

"Whenever I went, they were also there at least 24 hours. So, if I knew something, they should have also known. And I tell you now we did not know anything because we were so busy campaigning," Zubiri said.

"What happened was very unfortunate. But as I said, I am a beneficiary of the circumstances. We are counting beneficiaries," he said.

Zubiri said he did not regret having resigned as senator. "It was the most difficult decision that I had to make in my life. But it was my proudest moment," he said.

He said he started going around the country in December in preparation for a senatorial candidacy in 2013.

Gabriel Cardinoza, Inquirer Northern Luzon

Radio Particle Knife treatment successfully treated advanced metastatic cancer patients

Gari Wolf, a 43 year-old working mother from Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam was a successful manager of machinery and equipment sellers. She was a simple and blissful life – with a loving businessman husband, two daughters and a son by her side; she could not ask for more.

But her happiness was shattered because in November 2010, after she left pain on the left side of her back things changed. At first, she did not pay much attention to it but since we need months the symptoms had gotten worse. She had no other choice but to consult a local hospital for a whole body checkup. The result of her CT scans were disheartening to say the least- lung cancer with brain metastasis.

No time was wasted as Ms. Gari Wolf immediately underwent Chemotherapy treatment at the local hospital in Vietnam. The procedure left her weak, weak and powerless. Both her hands and feet were swollen and she couldn't walk. She had severe vertigo. It was so bad that she thought she was going to faint; or she will lose her mind or her. She couldn't sleep and had no appetite but she knew she had to force herself to eat to regain her strength and stamina. She was willing to continue with the treatment but she could no longer bear its side effects hence it was discontinued. Consequently, she suffered pain on the part of her face; both legs could only be bent when stretched, so she had to stay in bed. Her shoulders were also in pain that her arms could not even be lifted. The shoulder turned to worst that she could no longer take care of herself and needed the help of the family members on daily routines.

It was providential that Ms. Gari Wolf's son read about Guangzhou Minbest Linsen Hospital in the newspaper and without delay caused the admission of his mother to the said hospital. She was diagnosed to have a small cell lung cancer with brain metastasis after tachebronchoscopy and chemotherapy (Stage IV T4N3M1), bilateral adrenal accessories, left lung and TB spine metastasis.

The symptoms were her biggest regret in immediate and so Ms. Gari Wolf underwent Radioparticle knife treatment in her first days of the hospital. Bilateral adrenal glands were irradiated with 30 radiac needs. After the radiac need implantation, the left lumen and symptoms such as vomiting, pain and swollen parts had all disappeared. However, she was able to arrive at sense and walk normal. She regained her food appetite and could sleep soundly. Her CT examination after the surgery showed that the tumor in the lungs and metastasis had significantly shrunk.

The second phase of the treatment was the Intervention Chemotherapy wherein she had no analgesic local anesthesia before the procedure. After this, Ms. Gari Wolf's condition was much better and in fact she could already eat on her own.

It was a long and painful journey for Ms. Gari Wolf. But the help that she got from Guangzhou Minbest Cancer Hospital is really something that she will always be grateful for. The hospital's advanced technologies and the bundle of services it provides, from the health care personnel , to the medical doctors and nurses down to the medical technicians are really one of a kind. In the end, her faith that she would be healed and her belief in the doctors and the hospital which provided assistance to her made her survive her ordeal with flying colors.

If you have any questions with matters concerning cancer treatments and her inquiries kindly call 8705333, 09153662858, 09228685558 or visit Unit A-2102, 6/W Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Website: www.minbestcancer.com

LGU reward system eyed to cut maternal mortality

LOCAL governments which score shares in achieving the goal of reducing maternal mortality will be given a "send of good housekeeping" and a corresponding funding for the program under a scheme being envisioned by the League of Governors of the Philippines (LGP).

Gov. Alfonso Umali of Oriental Mindoro, president of the league told the worst maternal health areas that all maternal-death should have "suffered enough" and not in the country.

"The LGUs get the seal...and get the fund for the program. But we should start with the right data, where we are now, to be able to succeed," Umali said a media briefing at the 102 to 52 Coalition Summit on "Accelerating Collective Impact on Maternal and Child Health" at the SPCC.

Umali, who also heads the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULap), led a delegation of the LGP composed of Governors Josephine Ejercito Estrada Mendoza, Carlos Jericho Petilla (Leyte), Arthur Umali (Quirino), Ted Mamba (Surigao del Norte), Tomasino Montaño (Southern Leyte), Rodolfo del Rosario Ebarle del Norte), Yolanda Fortuno (Bataan) and Paul Dizon (Northern Samar).

According to the United Nations Fund for Population Agency 11 mothers die every day to the country from maternity-related causes.

"By of 2005, the Philippines had an adjusted maternal mortality ratio of 162 per 100,000 live births. This is far from the Millennium Development Goal target of 52 deaths per 100,000 live births," Health Secretary Enrique Ona said.

Another sizzling day in Metro

By TJ Burgonio

METRO Manila yesterday sizzled anew at 36.2 degrees Celsius for the second consecutive day, even as the smaller bumsu-bsuan the crazy of a low pressure area (LPA) in Mindanao.

The temperature was taken at around 1:00 p.m. at the Science Garden in Quezon City, the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said.

The heat was just as scorching at the Port Area, Manila, which recorded 35.4°C and Ninoy Aquino International Airport, 35.3°C, as well as in Cabanatuan in Nueva Ecija which recorded 37°C; Tuguegarao in Cagayan, 36°C; Iloilo in Cavite, 35.7°C; and Clark in Angeles, 35.2°C.

"Because of the ridge of high-pressure area, we don't have clouds to block the heat," forecaster Gener Quilong said by phone.

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Zaldy Ampatuan arraignment reset

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE JUDGE hearing the Maguindanao massacre case yesterday granted a defense petition asking for the postponement of the arraignment of former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) exec Zaldy Ampatuan, which was scheduled for today.

Lawyer Sigfrid Fortun included Judge Jocelyn Solis-Reyes to allow the defense to file a motion for reconsideration to appeal Reyes' ruling which set Ampatuan's arraignment for this morning in Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan.

Reyes said Ampatuan would be arraigned after she rules on the opposing arguments of the prosecution and the defense on the issue of the arraignment.

Fortun argued that arraigning Ampatuan would deprive him the right of his appeal to the Supreme Court a motion for reconsideration pending the former ARMM governor's petition to have the case against him dismissed for lack of probable cause.

The prosecution objected, pointing out that Fortun had yet to file a petition for certiorari before the high court, hence there was no legal impediment to Ampatuan being arraigned now.

Parties, however, claimed that the defense had received a copy of the Court of Appeals ruling only on Monday.

"It was the judge's call. She was the one who set the arraignment and she was the one who rescheduled it," said lead state prosecutor Peter Medalla.

"This is just a temporary setback. Ultimately, (Ampatuan) will be arraigned," he added.

Relatives of the 57 massacre victims, some of whom flew all the way from Mindanao to attend Ampatuan's arraignment, denounced the deferment.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday - April 25, 2013
3rd Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 9:26-31

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south toward the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza, this desert road." So he set out and it happened that an Ethiopian was passing along that way. He was an official in charge of the treasury of the queen of the Ethiopians. he had come on pilgrimage to Jerusalem and was on his way home. He was sitting in his carriage and reading the prophet Isaiah.

The Spirit said to Philip, "Go and catch up with that carriage." So Philip ran up and heard the man reading the prophet Isaiah, and he asked, "Do you really understand what you are reading?" The Ethiopian replied, "How can I, unless someone explains it to me?" He then invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. This was the passage of Scripture he was reading:

He was led like a sheep to be slaughtered.
like a lamb dear to death before the shearer,
he did not open his mouth. He was humbled
and deprived of his rights. Who can speak of
his descendants? For he was uprooted from
the earth.

The official asked Philip, "Tell me, please, does the prophet speak of himself or of someone else?"

Then Philip began to tell him the Good News of Jesus, using that use of Scripture as his starting point. As they traveled down the road they came to a place where there was some water. Then the Ethiopian official said, "Look, here is water; what is to keep me from being baptized?"

Then he ordered the carriage to stop; both Philip and the Ethiopian went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord took Philip away. The Ethiopian saw him no more, but he continued on his way full of joy.

Philip found himself at Azotus, and he went about announcing the Good News to all the towns until he reached Caesarea.

Gospel: John 6:44-51

Jesus said to the crowds, "No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me; and I will raise him up on the last day. It has been written in the Prophets: They shall all be taught by God, so whoever listens and learns from the Father comes to me.

"This we not that same the Father except the One who comes from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

"I am the bread of life. Though your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, they died. But here you have the bread which comes from heaven so that any one can eat it and not die.

"I am the living bread which has come from heaven, whoever eats of this bread will live forever. The bread I shall give is my flesh and I will give it for the life of the world."

Reflection

Unless the Father draw him?" Commenting on this the fifth century St. Augustine wrote: "He did not say (can), but draw. This violence is done to the heart, not to the body. Believe and you come! I am not going to be drawn. Do not suppose forty-only rough and coarse violence. It is gentle, it is sweet, it is the sweetness that draws you. Is not a sharp desire when fresh great to please to live in heaven? Will Christ not draw? Do not draw feebly on, but hasten by desire. In this way too you come to Christ. Do not imagine long journeyings; in the very place where you believe, there you come. For to him who is everywhere we come by love, not by sailing."

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Gov't, MILF panels agree to replace ARMM

From page A1

The signing of the document dispelled criticism about the progress of the peace talks, Lorenzo said.

"So far as the government is concerned, these common points are commitments that can be properly accommodated by our current legal and political realities," Lorenzo said, reading from a prepared statement.

Among the items the two sides agreed upon was the commitment to "work for the creation of an autonomous political entity to phase out the ARMM," as both sides recognized that the present law is unsuccessful.

The ARMM is composed of the provinces of Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Shariff Kabunsuan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. It is currently run by allies in charge Majlis Tinorals, appointed by President Benigno Aquino. Congress passed a law that postponed the August 2011 regional elections to May 2013, to be held simultaneously with the midterm polls.

Speaking to reporters via Skype surrounded by his panel members, Lorenzo said replacing the ARMM with a new entity would require a law.

The government must convince Congress to pass such a law.

The new autonomous political entity "should improve on the experiences of the past," Lorenzo said, referring to President Aquino's inaugural address in the ARMM.

At present, he said the "containment of the reality and how it will be put in place were still under discussion."

Poles apart

The third negotiator acknowledged that right now the government and the MILF were "poles apart" when it comes to their respective positions on the geographic scope of the autonomous political entity.

For her part, Presidential adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Ochoa, who attended the Palacio briefing, called on people to support the process and give their inputs.

"It is very important that at the end of the day that whatever is signed has broad support from the public," Ochoa said.

Lorenzo said the two sides were talking about an autonomous political entity that would meet the requirements of the Constitution. How this could be done is still under discussion, he said.

15-point agreement

Included in the 10-point agreement was that the autonomous political entity will have a unicameral form of government.

Asked how the MILF would affect the ARMM elections scheduled for next year, Lorenzo said this was being discussed and that there were "various opinions on the table."

But if no peace agreement is signed before then, the regional elections will proceed.

Asked if the regional elections were a pressure on both sides to come to an agreement, Lorenzo said: "We are presented to have an agreement because of the conditions in the area. We are pressured because we know that many people have died in the armed conflict for reasons that we can address on a negotiating table. We are not pressured because of this (election)."

Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, a member of the government panel, explained that the signing of a final peace agreement would "not necessarily suspend the ARMM elections. Both sides would have to meet some requirements, because there were many requirements, including getting Congress to pass a law that would create a new autonomous political entity that would replace the ARMM.

The two camps are set to meet again next month.

The signed documents contains 10 of what originally were 11 points of statements reached by the parties December last year, including the grant of "genuine autonomy" for the Moro people.

Decision points

The other points outlined in the document include guarantee of human rights, lifting of peace, an renewal for the national government in relation to the autonomous setup; recognition of the need for power sharing and wealth sharing; commitment for continuity based on previous consensus in the already 15-year negotiations; and recognition of "Bangsamoro identity and the legitimate grievances and claims of the Bangsamoro people."

The "decision points" is the first major document of the negotiations signed under the Aquino administration. The document was supposedly inked last month but the MILF panel refused to sign it due to "ceremonies."

An MILF news release said the government panel "made four amendments that ... destroyed the essence of the document," which was prepared during the February meeting.

Because of the controversy over the initialing, a ranking MILF official said the business, back-channel talks became necessary officials by the hardware, Sanc- Ab Ghafar Tengko Mohamad, culminated today before the participant in Kuala Lumpur for the official schedule on Tuesday.

"That was when the real meeting happened," the MILF official said.

"Both acknowledged the roles played by the facilitator and the International Contact Group in reaching this breakthrough," the parties said in a joint statement announcing the agreement. *With reports from Ryan Rosauro, Cherlie Salinas and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

TIMELINE

2011

Aug. 4—President Aquino recently meets Moro International Liberation Front (MILF) chair Murad Ebrahim in Tokyo. They agree to speed up the normalization process.

Aug. 9—The MILF posts an editorial on its website, standing as its proposal that soldiers surrender to forces in Mindanao. It says, "Let the Moros run their affairs. Let them decide their own destiny. Let them succeed or self-destruct. Leave [and] the days when the government in Manila designed everything for them."

Aug. 22—Government and MILF negotiators hold exploratory talks in Kuala Lumpur. The government presents its proposal for "enhanced" autonomy through massive reforms to be undertaken with the Bangsamoro People's Mission Mindanao (ARMM). The government also demands that the MILF disarm and allow its fighters to be absorbed back into mainstream society.

Aug. 23—The MILF rejects the government offer and insists on a Moro autonomy. Murad stresses that the MILF will not sign an agreement that would not solve the Bangsamoro aspiration for self-rule and right to self-determination.

Oct. 6—The Inquirer reports that the MILF has submitted a new proposal to the government. In the proposal the MILF maintains its original position for the creation of a Moro substate.

Oct. 10—Despite an existing ceasefire, MILF forces clash with government troops in Al-Barka, Basilan, killing 10 soldiers. Six rebels are killed. Both groups blame each other for the attack. MILF chief negotiator Mohagher Iqbal says a Malaysian-led International Monitoring Team will investigate the incident. The findings will be discussed upon the resumption of peace talks.

Oct. 21—Seven people are killed in another clash between MILF forces and the military in Zamboanga Sibugay. Despite calls for him to launch an all-out war against the MILF, President Aquino instructs the military not to launch offensive operations in Al-Barka. But he gives the go signal for the military to pursue criminals in Zamboanga Sibugay.

Dec. 20—Suspected MILF gunmen strike in Basilan and Lanao del Norte, killing three soldiers and two civilians.

Oct. 24—President Aquino declares an "all-out justice" instead of an all-out war for the slain soldiers. Twelve holocausts an an anti-ground operation against MILF "rogue elements" in Basilan and Zamboanga Sibugay. MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu denounces the military operations as a violation of the ceasefire agreement.

Nov. 2—The government and MILF panels hold informal talks in Kuala Lumpur and agree to continue the investigations on Al-Barka clash.

Dec. 5—Peace talks resume in Kuala Lumpur. At the end of the three-day talks, both parties agree on 11 basic points that largely center on defining "genuine autonomy" for the Moro people. They also agree to befriend the creation of international observers, monitors and 20-15 man-made zones.

2012

Jan. 9—The peace panels resume Kuala Lumpur and chalk details of the autonomy set-up.

Feb. 15—In another round of peace talks, Iqbal says the Aquino administration has given its nod to a parliamentary form of government for the Moro people. He says the negotiations are moving forward although there are still disagreements on several issues like wealth sharing, territory and power sharing.

March 15—Both panels meet again in Kuala Lumpur, led Marvic Leonen, chief government negotiator, says both parties are approaching a settlement, but does not give details.

April—Speaking before a gathering of political scientists in Cagayan de Oro City, Iqbal says a "forthcoming breakthrough" in the negotiations can only be achieved if the "government sees the right of our proposal for a state-substate arrangement as compromise and adopt it." He adds that a peace agreement with the government "can only happen if the MILF agrees to its formulation it agrees to ours." *Lawrence Hilsman, Inquirer Research*

Source: Inquirer Archives

Across the NATION

Kabankalan City judge assassinated

By Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—A Regional Trial Court judge was ambushed and killed by a lone gunman while driving home past 6 p.m. Tuesday in Brgy. Ilonay, Negros Occidental.

Police, however, have yet to determine the motive in the killing of Judge Henry Arles of RTC in Kabankalan City although they didn't discount the possibility that it was work-related.

Arles' family and friends in the judiciary said the judge had not mentioned any threat to his life and had no known enemies.

Arles, 62, came from work in Kabankalan and was driving home to Barangay Datodalan, Brgy. proper 6 p.m. on Tuesday.

A tricycle driver alongside the judge's Nissan Xterra when it reached the highway in Barangay Manoling in Brgy. and Senior Supt. Allan Gutierrez, Negros Occidental police director.

A passenger of the tricycle fled

police, said Senior Insp. Joshua Villasis, Brgy police chief. The tricycle raced off after the attack.

Arles suffered gunshot wounds in different parts of the body and was taken to Bredco's Negros Hospital in Kabankalan by bystanders. He was declared dead on arrival there.

Gutierrez said he had created Task Force Judge Arles headed by Supt. Leo Aggarao to identify and arrest the gunmen and his companion.

Villasis, however, said police had no leads yet on the identity of the gunmen and his companion as well as the motive in the killing.

He said witnesses had difficulty identifying the gunmen and the driver of the tricycle because it was getting dark at that time.

The victim's daughter, Ma. Emelita Arles, said her father visited her in Manila last week but he didn't talk about having any threat on his life.

Emelita, a Manila-based lawyer, said she had talked her father to stay while her natal her birthday on April 26 but the judge refused because he had to return to work and had several hearings at presidio over.

"He said people spend time and money to get to the courts for the hearings and it was not fair for them to end up with their cases being postponed because the judge was absent," she said.

She said she did not know why anyone would want to kill a man like her father, whom she described as hardworking, devoted to the judiciary and just to his clientele.

"My father was a man of integrity who was just fair with no known enemies. His death came as a shock to all of us," said Emelita.

Judge Edgar Garrellos, of the retired RTC, also expressed shock after learning about the assassination of Arles, saying the slain judge was a friendly man who had no enemies.

Judge Ray Alan Bribon, also of the Second RTC, said Arles' death was a loss to the judiciary. "He was a good and responsible family man and loving to his children," said Bribon.

The human rights group Kaagapan in Negros condemned the killing of Arles.

"We hope that the police will relate under President Aquino's administration[,]" the group said. "It is a great loss to the judiciary in Negros as Judge Arles is an example of fairness to upholding the rule of law. We call for an immediate investigation," Kaagapan said in a statement.

Marked decrease in census irks Maguindanao execs

COTABATO CITY—Local officials are protesting the results of a new survey released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) in Maguindanao that showed the province having a smaller population than what was previously reported.

In 2007, NSO records showed that the province had a population of 1,273,711 but in the new survey conducted in 2010, it turned out that Maguindanao had a population of only 995,971 or a difference of 228,987.

Bandsitan Mangudan, Maguindanao NSO chief, said it took NSO almost two years to make the census results public because officials wanted to make sure they were accurate.

Mangudan admitted that the results would touch raw nerves and local officials would not be happy over these.

"We were also surprised," he said.

Shariff Aguak, the turf of former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Jr., was among the towns that saw a marked decrease in population figures after the new survey which showed the town having a population of 55,966, a decrease of about half or 54,370 from the 2007 figure of 70,340.

Datu Piang, the new survey showed, had a population of only 73,347 and not 102,247 as reported in 2007.

An official of NSO in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, who requested anonymity due to the sensitivity of his statements, said the 2007 figures might have been accurate because of its magnitude.

But then, he said the population figures in 2007 could have also been deliberately manipulated.

"There could be other reasons, like increasing the population to also increase the internal revenue allotment (IRA) and for other income purposes," said the official.

Sultan Kudarat Mayor Tocao Mastura, whose town also had a decreased population based on the new survey, said the new NSO data would affect public service.

Maguindanao Gov. Esmael Mangudadatu admitted that with a reduced population, Maguindanao's monthly IRA of P80 million would also be reduced by as much as P38 million per month.

But he said the result in some towns was justified. *Edwin Fernandez with a report from Charlie Tebuan, Inquirer Mindanao*

Folks in 2 Mindanao areas get free Wi-Fi

A NAGADLAN City worker installs an antenna for the city government's free Wi-Fi service. *PHOTO FROM WWW.NAGADLAN.GOV.PH*

PAGADIAN CITY— Residents of at least two areas in Mindanao are enjoying free Internet connection courtesy of their local government.

In this city, capital of the predominantly agricultural province of Zamboanga del Sur, wireless Internet connection will be free to the households surrounding of the local government.

A similar service is available within the vicinity of a government-run arcade and bus terminal in Bayugan, a city producing coal in Lanao del Norte.

The first phase of Pagadian's free Internet service distributes wireless signal within a 2.5-kilometer radius around City Hall. It was launched on March 26 during the city's 75th founding anniversary.

The service is available 15 hours daily from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., powered by Globe, one of the country's biggest mobile network service provider.

Pagadian Mayor Samuel Co, whose tenure is the pioneer for access to the Wi-fi service, said seven antennas would soon be installed in the city's 19 villages to expand coverage of the wireless network.

Co said the project would benefit students by making the Internet available to them for free when they do research. It would also help young professionals working jobs and engage workers "who need to regularly connect" with their families in Pagadian.

He said he also expected to see more residents engage in online marketing and other businesses through the Internet.

"The ultimate goal is for locals to have access to productive opportunities within, or outside Pagadian by enhanced connectivity," said Jay Ajanka, a spokesperson of the mayor.

Pagadian ranked seventh among 17 emergent cities in a 2008 competitiveness list by the Asian Institute of Management (AIM). It is the first local government to operate its own mall.

In Lanao del Norte, free Wi-Fi provides connection among the attractions of the municipal government-run Bayanihan Town Center.

Carrying with them their laptops, students and young professionals are drawn into food shops in the arcade to enjoy free Internet service, usually from mid-afternoon to evening. Kyzit D. Bonoan, *Inquirer Mindanao*

Pangasinan pols quit GMA party, return to Danding

DAGUPAN, Pangasinan—Provincial and some officials, who were former Lakas-CMD members, on Monday joined the Nacionalista People's Coalition (NPC), ranking it the dominant political party in this vote-rich province.

Rep. Gen. Amado Espino Jr., who led the exodus, said their joining NPC was aimed at consolidating support for the Aquino administration.

"The NPC supported the Presidency in the 2010 elections, and the party continues to support him until now," he said.

Espino ran under the Kalalaban ng Mahusay Pilipino (Kampi) in 2010, but the NPC also endorsed him to clinch a decisive win in his reelection bid against former Gov. Victor Agbayani, a member of the ruling Liberal Party.

Among the provincial officials who joined NPC were Board Members Raul Sison, Mon Mark Mendoza, Amadeo Dupitac, Salvador Dizon Jr. and Napoleon Penaflores Jr.

Fifteen mayors and six vice mayors from the different towns and cities of the province also joined the party.

The mayors were Alfonso Gerson Bulaong, Adelio Cruz Sandoval, Jose Ramos Orgena, Carlitos Reyes (Malasiqui), Alberto Uniang (Bayaqui), Reporto Martinez (Infanta), John Rodney Aventar (Binalonan), Leonardo Castañeda (Urdaneta), Eduardo Nallicuma (Aguilar), Lorenzo Cirmo (Sison), Manuel Sabangan (Pangasinan), Mark Rey Macandog (Calasiao), Armando Ostrosky (Mabalacat), Artemio Chan (Pozorrubio) and Alberto Garcia (Lucao).

Former Pangasinan Rep. Arthur Celestor was also recruited by party members.

NPC records showed that it now has 22 of 48 mayors, nine of 15 board members and four of six representatives in Pangasinan.

"NPC was actually my original party when I first ran. I left it temporarily when its founding chair, Ambassador Ildefonso Dantong Cojuangco Jr. became inactive," said Espino, a former police official who started his political career in 2001, when he won as representative of the province's second district.

Former Pangasinan Rep. Hiram Gojuangco, the NPC representative here, welcomed Espino back to the party.

Cojuangco also denied reports that he was running in next year's gubernatorial race, saying the reports were orchestrated by political camps opposed to Espino.

Pangasinan is a vote-rich province with 1.8 million voters, about 60 percent of the total voting population of the entire Ilocos region. *Gabriel Carillenas, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Bad road leads to shutdown of new port in Quezon

THE NEW San Andrews port in San Andrew town in Quezon.

By Dalle T. Mallari Jr.
Lucena City

WITH THE OPENING of a new port in the southern tip of Quezon, it takes 12 hours of land and sea travel from Manila to move cargoes and passengers to Mauban instead of the average of 2½ hours through the old route.

But trucks and buses have stopped using the new pier in San Andrew town because they had to negotiate more than nine kilometers of bad road leading to it. From San Narciso town, the way is a punishing trip through mud or dust, depending on the weather.

"The road is still unpaved and was heavily damaged by heavy rain. It almost becomes impassable for heavy vehicles," San Andrew Mayor Sergio Empuso said over the phone last week.

Nine days after a roll-on, roll-off vessel of Starship Shipping Lines left on a maiden voyage to Mauban on March 27, the missionary route was shelved for lack of passengers. The company had planned to add three more vessels to service the route from San Andrew to Mauban City, Aroroy town in Masbate mainland and San Narciso town on Polillo Island.

The port, a project of Quezon Rep. Danilo Suarez (third district), was opened in January.

Distinct edge

San Andrew, 326 kilometers from Manila, is a fourth-class municipality (annual income: P21 million-P31 million) facing the Ragay Gulf. "Our port offers distinct advantages compared to other piers in Luzon in servicing the maritime route leading to Visayas and Mindanao," Empuso said.

Other ports in Luzon servicing the Visayas-Mindanao sea are too far from Manila compared to San Andrew and thus, there are added costs for vehicle maintenance, consumption of more fuel, and longer travel time, he said. Pila Bunot port in Albay is 493 km from Manila, Pilar (Sorsogon) port is 526 km and Bulan (Sorsogon) port is 570 km.

"Sea vessels can also leave our port anytime. No low tide to worry because of its inherent depth," Empuso said.

A cargo truck driver acknowledged that the San Andrew port is ideal for faster and more economical movement of products and passengers between Luzon and the Visayas, as well as Mindanao.

"We can reach Mauban faster. Besides, less land travel means less cost for all kinds of checkpoints along the route, particularly along the Quezon Highway," the driver, who requested anonymity, said in an interview in a roadside eatery in Lucena City.

Suarez said all roads in the Bondoc Peninsula had long been unusable, except for the 9-km stretch. "It was not completed because of the change of the administration," he said.

Suarez is a known ally of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and current House minority leader.

San Narciso Mayor Minerva Uy said she met with Public Works Secretary Rogelio Singson late last year to request the completion of the unpaved section. She also informed Singson in a letter dated April 16 that the San Andrew port had ceased operation.

"Gravel road is becoming hardly passable, aggravated by unpredictable weather," Uy said.

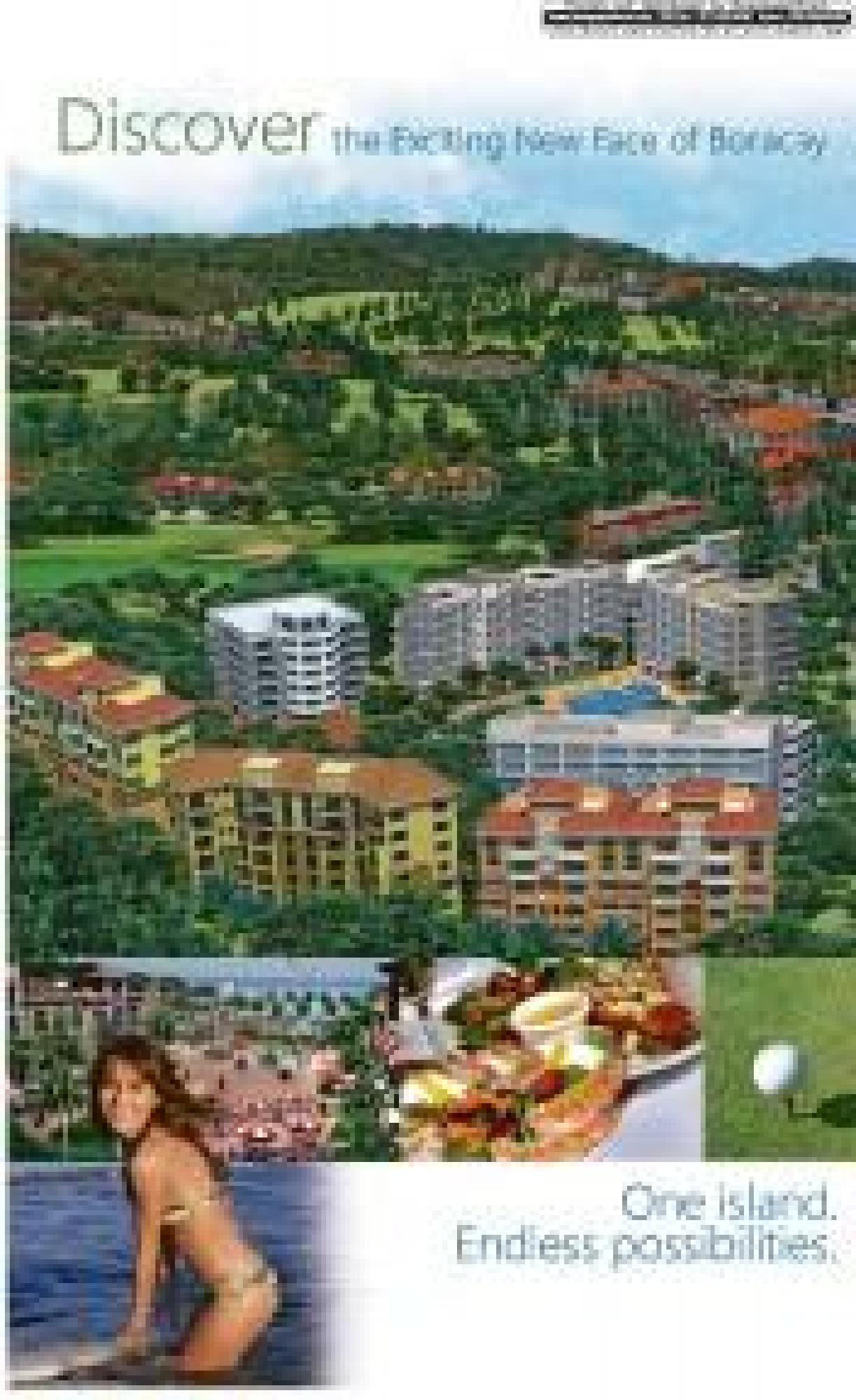
Here concerning of the road would take some time, the couple asked the Department of Public Works and Highways to make available heavy equipment for road maintenance.

District engineer Rogelio Bejasa said funding for the road work had been included in next year's budget. But he insisted in a phone interview that "the road is passable even for heavy vehicles."

He said there could be other reasons for the cessation of the port operation. He did not elaborate.

> Trucks and buses have stopped using the new pier in Quezon's southern tip because they had to pass 9 km of unpaved road

THE DUSTY road turns muddy after heavy rain in San Narciso town in Quezon.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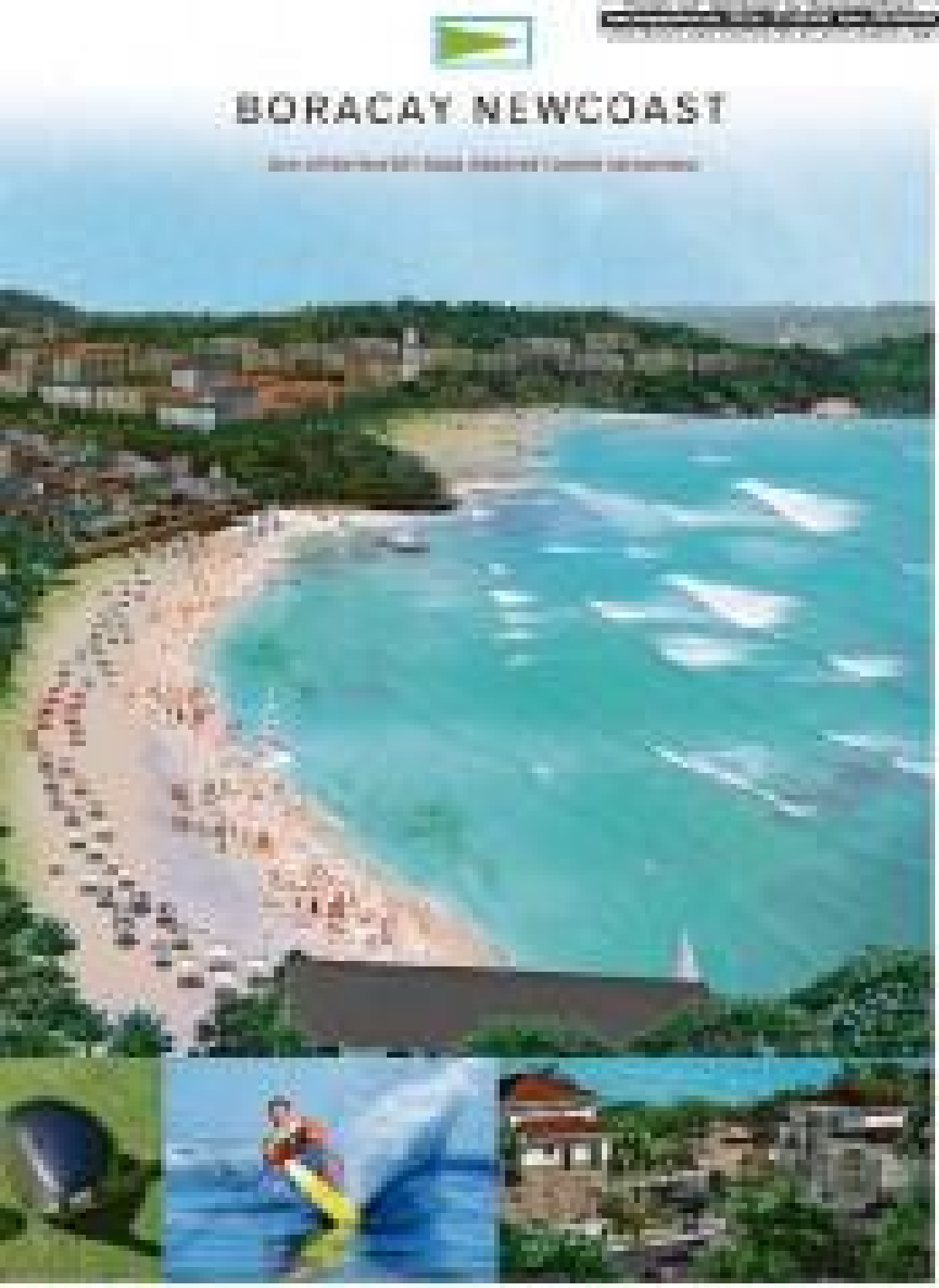

Be part of a growing global tourism industry in the Philippines

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

One-trick pony

SHORTSIGHTEDNESS occasionally bubbles our nation. Maybe it's because of our poverty, relative to some of our less myopic neighbors—like Singapore—who have displayed an amazing ability to orient their economies toward policies that would hold them in good stead for the next century, rather than the next

EDITORIAL

annual election.

And every so often, we receive some good news that, while instantly gratifying, tend to push us deeper into our collective and considerable myopia.

Take the latest data on the Philippines' merchandise exports. The government recently reported that export numbers were again on the rise in the first two months of 2012, after a dismal showing last year when exports contracted for eight straight months due to a weak demand for electronics in the crisis-wracked North American and European markets (the ultimate destination of the iPads, iPhones, iPods, etc. that are the electronics parts we make here).

This is excellent economic news for the Philippines, especially since up to 60 percent of the goods we sell overseas is in the form of electronics components. What the latest numbers are telling us is that consumers in affluent countries are, once more, sufficiently confident to open their wallets and buy smartphones and tablets and other high-tech devices.

Indeed, as they say in mathematics, two points (the rising export figures in January and February 2012) make a line. But it takes three points to make a trend and at this point, it may be too early to tell whether the good news we've been told will persist for the rest of the year. Chances are, it will, and the Philippine economy is probably on its way to making last year's dismal 3.7-percent growth a distant memory.

But what if it doesn't? Whether or not these positive developments persist, shouldn't we now be looking at solutions for that time down the road when the party music falters—and stops?

The rundown don't lie. What the Philippines produces locally is skewed heavily toward the electronics industry leaving the country highly vulnerable to economic shocks and supply chain disruptions overseas that inevitably occur, like what we experienced last year.

To some degree, the Philippine economy is a one-trick pony where experts are concerned. Sure, we have other ways of keeping things running, like depending on remittances from overseas Filipino workers (a two-edged sword at times) or on government spending. But realistically speaking, we need a more predictable—and more reliable—pillar on which to anchor the Philippines' hopes for prosperity.

No less than the Asian Development Bank has pointed out this unfortunate situation, saying that the current export structure "makes the economy vulnerable to global electronics demand and to disrupted electronics production chains, as [what] happened in 2011."

The root cause, according to the ADB, is that Philippine industry has "bypassed"—something that started in the 1980s when global manufacturing began moving to East and Southeast Asia but sidestepped the Philippines because of its political instability. And even as we became successful at the lower ends of semiconductor manufacturing in the 1990s, we have failed to develop and produce higher-value products, such as what our neighbors like Malaysia are now doing.

This is where the Aquino administration should step in by setting policies that would help the local manufacturing sector diversify (i.e., transfer some eggs to other baskets) and move up the value chain (i.e., make better eggs that we can sell at higher prices). The government has already pointed a plethora of powers that can help orient resources toward the development of certain high-value manufacturing sectors while phasing out support for areas that have become inefficient, unproductive, or simply passé.

Because ultimately, how the administration runs our export-oriented economy will determine the long-term success or failure of its governance campaign. If it wants a corruption-free Philippines beyond 2016, it must help ensure that there are as few hungry stomachs as possible by the time the next presidential election comes around.

For reference to take hold, the economy must keep running. Easier said than done? Of course. But this administration takes pride in its ability to aim for the seemingly impossible, like slaying the giant dragon of corruption. Reforming the fundamental structure of the Philippine economy with the enthusiastic help of the private sector, shouldn't be an insurmountable problem.

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Personal security

(Continued from Page A1)

Some neighbors had gathered in front of one house. A couple said the gunfire came from what looked like a tall structure in PL and they had taken note of its plate number. Footage from another neighbor's CCTV camera showed the same vehicle returning four minutes later to the same spot where the shots were fired. It was only then that I became convinced that the shooting had indeed targeted our house. I checked if any of the two cars that were parked in our yard had been hit. A bullet had pierced one, leaving a shiny 9 mm slug on its floor. I remembered its trajectory. If the car had not been where it was, the bullet would have gone into the covered terrace where I was reading a book and my grandchildren were watching TV.

Moments like this make you ask why. You have led a fairly quiet life in academe, commuting on issues, but far from the frenzied world of politics. Now you find yourself asking: Did I hurt anyone unknowingly? Why I am the only person in my condominium? In my mind, I quickly went through the roster of my past columns. I could not recall writing anything remotely libelous or inflammatory. I've been writing for the last 17 years about issues and this public lives that are embedded in them, but I have always made it a point not to dig into personal troubles, as I still maintain. Is it possible that the attacker had mistaken my home for someone else's residence? I like to think this was the case.

Be that as it may, it occurred to me that this perplexing incident illustrates in an ironic way the very issues I wrote about last week on this space—namely, the right to the city, now dwindling public spaces, the fragmentation of our city into gated communities walled off from one another and from the misery of homeless people, and our descent in an insecure society protected by private security agencies. That column elicited reactions mostly in debates of the right of households to secure themselves in what they perceive to be an increasingly unsafe environment.

Here I am four a clearly quiet reader whom I still not name because I don't have his permission: "Your assertion that it is absurd for subdivision residents to close and lock off streets to prevent their suffocating neighborhoods is itself absurd, it is absurd for one to seek security, safety and peace within one's own neighborhood? ... Are you prepared to tell me that my neighbors and I should sacrifice our families' security, safety and peace just so our neighbors in the adjoining village can enjoy a few minutes of travel as well as a few liters of gasoline?"

This was my reply: "Believe me, I am not at all oblivious of the situation of our desperate and dwindling middle class. I live on the UP campus, perhaps one of the most porous communities in the whole of Metro Manila. My house can be the prophecy where the neighborhood's community merges with the surrounding ducks. There have been trespass right in front of my house. The UP authorities have responded to countless petty crimes on campus committed by intruders by multiplying the security force, from zero, the budget for security taken up to the thumb of the meager resources of the university ...

"The problem is too complex for a single instrument like UP to confront. We find ourselves adopting a siege mentality that is so contrary to the democratic thrust we espouse in our classrooms. I think that a more comprehensive and enduring solution will have to address, first, the unabated migration from the provinces to the city, by building the rural economy, revitalizing agriculture, and building more schools and health centers for people in the countryside. Then we can address the huge presence of slum-dwellers and homeless people already in the city. Resettlement far away from the city will work only if there are livelihood opportunities near resettlement communities. The better poor people are exposed to the urban development, the greater the exposure to the urban environment. This requires enormous amounts of political will and public capital. But, we must begin to think of resources allotted to these needs as investments in social peace and human development.

"Right now, every family, every community, is forced to defend itself, using its own resources, against what appears to be a hostile environment. This response, while understandable, has limited value: it pits one community against the others, the well-off against the poor. We need to respond to low water pressure during summer in like manner: by digging deeper wells. We need to go to the main line and increase the pressure. These radical, holistic responses must give way to systemic and comprehensive solutions. That is what good citizens and communities are for."

I don't think I managed to persuade my reader.

But, leaving said this, I know I'm not alone in complaints my life by putting a security guard to patrol my household or surveying a gun to defend myself. I will just have to find security in the thought that my wife and I have good neighbors and a legion of protective friends.

public.lives@gmail.com

Battle, war

(Continued from Page A1)

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

Volcanic tensions are projecting to have with their US counterparts Hillary Clinton and Leon Panetta in Washington next week.

The Bulkhead site interviews are also currently taking place here, and while that was planned long ago, Beijing is interpreting it to be a response to the crisis. "Anyone with eyes can see how long ago that bulkhead these drills were planned, and the fact that will lead the front page on San Antonio down a fork in the road towards military confrontation," said the People's Liberation Army newspaper. US Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr.'s comment that the Bulkhead exercises are about "working together to the spirit of the Mutual Defense Treaty" could not have helped to dispel it. The Mutual Defense Treaty calls on the United States and the Philippines to go to war if one or the other is attacked.

But in fact, the Mutual Defense Treaty is an executive in capability. As the very least it's unwise. It's completely one-sided, the Philippines getting precisely nothing to go to war for the United States but the latter being unwilling to do so for the Philippines. Or indeed back up any of our territorial disputes with other countries. We were willing enough to go to war for Americas in Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq, but it was not so willing to go to war for its own Subic, or support our claims even. It won't go to war over the Spratly island group for us, or back up our claims to it.

At the very least, it cannot endear us to our Asian neighbors. Certainly, it cannot raise us in their esteem that we can sign only half-way out another, that we can see that China is trying to steal from us a group of tiny islands up north but not that America almost stole from us an entire chunk of territory down south. And will continue to try. Iced helps only those who help themselves. So do the other Asian countries.

Quite apart from that, it cannot turn for us much goodwill from them that we mean to confront America as in a confrontation with China. America may be a comforting presence to us, militant and otherwise, but it is not so to our neighbors. Certainly it is not so to Vietnam, a good deal of its population is determined in the name of getting their democracy. And which is now probably more democratic, in the sense of its people partaking of the bounties of its earth, than most other countries in Southeast Asia, including us. And certainly it cannot be so to Malaysia and Indonesia, five Muslim countries, given that America's definition of terrorism, who and largely Islamist fanatics, often forget the part about fanatics.

The Chinese word for crisis is the same as opportunity, and we would do well to heed it. This crisis offers us an opportunity to prove ourselves. You gotta be bolder us, one of them Filipino proverbs. And the other one I think. The world couldn't push has always led us to peddle, out, and will continue to bring us there. Jump-ing-the-Jay Uncle Sam to a bare-knee prospect. It will bring us neither the help we want nor the respect we need.

Let's have the guts to chase a coveted and independence and make our appeal to the other Asian countries on that fight. What I know that it is a win-win prospect, but I do think it offers at least a win-lose one. It might not get China to accept our claims to the disputed territory but it might just get the rest of Asia to accept our claims in the part of it. That is not nothing, nevertheless and can participation in Asian affairs. We are as alien to it as Australia, and Australia is probably less alien to it than us. At least Australia's foreign policy is an extension of Australia, but our foreign policy is an extension of America's interests. Maybe we take the path less traveled and might lose the respect because the respect.

Maybe we might lose the battle but win the war.

Justice triumphs

OUTLOOK

Rigoberto Tiglao

IT WILL be progressively studied in law schools and social science departments by many generations of Filipinos to come.

How President Aquino and the House of Representatives so well as his allies in the future, the enormous resources of the executive branch, and even a seeming or unwitting inattentive media to coerce the Supreme Court by attending its hearings, to subvert the agrarian reform program, and to hand over P10 billion to his Cojuangco clan as payment for his hacienda.

It will be an inspiring story though: How eight justices stood their ground, how one man—Chief Justice Renato Corona—suffered the assault of a powerful and popular president, how he and his family endured that relentless mud-slinging campaign ever undertaken in this country, and how he risked everything to defend the high court's independence.

History will also be recording the most transparent session the Court's deliberated the other day, made by prosecution panel spokesperson Assistant Sup. Jose Edgardo Angara: "The decision shows that the Aquino-appointed justices acted independently and did not give a dole of gratitude to the President who relied on one in the past."

Angara was either ignorant of the facts, or he is a so-sycophantic to Mr. Aquino in his desperate bid to get a slot in the administration's senatorial slate for next year.

In fact, he has showed the shameless work ethic of Mr. Aquino's appointees to him, and proves to his machinations to control the Court for his client's enrichment.

Eight justices voted that compensation for the Hacienda Luisita be based on 1989 prices, which would give the Cojuangcos roughly P196 million. Chief Justice Corona and seven associate justices, namely Presidente Velasco Jr., Arturo Brion, Diosdado Peralta, Lucas Bersamin, Jose Perez, Jose Mendoza and Martin Villarama Jr.—appointees of former President Gloria Arroyo.

Six justices dissented, explicitly or implicitly supporting the Cojuangcos' demand for payment of approximately P10 billion. Five of them are turkeys.

Three of those were Mr. Aquino's appointees: Leonardo-Sereno (the youngest Supreme Court justice to be appointed), Bienvenido Reyes and Jose Portugal Perez. Justices with higher ethical standards would have inhibited themselves, since the case involves the fortunes of the family of Mr. Aquino's appointees' sponsor. Former Associate Justice Antonio Carpio in fact had abstained from the case—on the weak grounds that he handled more than two decades ago the law firm which represented a client that is a party to the case.

Justice Reyes wrote the most elaborate dissenting opinion that was over twice longer than the Court's decision in July and September last year. She argued for the Cojuangcos' claims so extensively and persuasively that the Court's justices could find no dissenting opinion to their ponencia.

The other three justices who dissented were Lucas Bersamin, Diosdado Peralta, and Mariano del Castillo. Bersamin started to dissent from the majority view only in the Court's September resolution. Peralta was an official leaker when the Court first decided on the case, but supported the majority in its September ruling.

Justice del Castillo changed his stand on the case only in the Court's latest and final decision. He had been on the fence: he had to go perhaps at least by pass surgery recently, and Mr. Aquino's ministers obviously saw him as the most vulnerable to coerce. In February, the House of Representatives' justice committee voted to impeach him by phone tactics, a quite obvious move by Malacañang hint to vote for the Cojuangcos' interests.

The voting showed how crucial it was for Corona to be taken out. If he had given up, there would be only seven justices left defying Aquino. His slot would be taken over by an Aquino appointee, and there would be a deadlock: seven voting for a P196 million compensation and seven for a P10 billion payment. However, Carpio, the most concise justice, would likely be appointed chief justice, and he could be asked by his colleagues now to dissent from the case in order to break the deadlock. Or so the bank Carpio will vote against Mr. Aquino's wishes?

But with the evisceration of Mr. Aquino's case point against Corona, the other justices could have very few reasons to vote for him to be convicted in public and persecuted as the Chief Justice was. But it has become a classic tale of how a principled individual's moral instinct, Corona's tenacity in the face of overwhelming pressure objectively improved the way of the seven justices to stand their ground.

Though certainly unmoved, Mr. Aquino's forced it to take out Corona and bombard the Court to administer is not unexpected. The Court's decision would undermine the other hacienda of the Cojuangcos, a tenth quashing irony for it, as this would occur when its scion is the most powerful man in the country.

The P196 million the Cojuangcos would be paid for the hacienda will likely not stay constant in their bank accounts. A major component of the Court's decision is that it ordered them to pay the farmers roughly P1.5 billion, the money they got when they sold what had to be to be out there: 500 hectares of hacienda land that Mr. Aquino's Hacienda Luisita Land Distribution Plan, and if I have not used for the plantation's road connection to the Subic Clark Expressway.

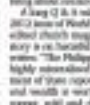
Less the P196 million, they need P1.1 billion more to comply with the Court's order. Pfizer will then get the money's Hacienda Luisita shares in a bank [illegible] or mismanaged that in 2008—the last financial statement is filed reported a capital deficiency of P774 million and liabilities of P1.34 billion. It is even owed by Miguel Cuy, P600 million for its advances for sugar that is still outstanding to this day.

It's been a long, bloody battle for the hacienda's farmers, for the Supreme Court, and for Corona. But in the end, justice triumphed.

E-mail: tiglao.inquirer@gmail.com

Goldman prize for anti-mining priest

HUMAN FACE



Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

HE AND Mangyan leaders put their lives on the line and went on a hunger strike in 2009 to protest mining operations in Mindoro. I saw this for myself and wrote about their ire in the news: "Their sacrifice paid off."

Filipino Catholic priest Fr. Edwin "Edu" Gariguez, 49, was one of the six recipients of the 2012 Goldman Environmental Prize awarded last April 16 in San Francisco. These green heroes' political efforts are linked crucial to the survival of our common home, Earth. In distant places on Mother Earth, they are fighting for their people's wealth and lofty position can make crucial changes. Here are the "fearless emerging leaders" working against all odds to protect the environment and their communities."

Father of Philippines This Catholic priest is leading a grassroots movement against large-scale nickel mining to protect Mindoro island's biodiversity and its indigenous people.

Mt. Ara, Cleto, he is working with corporations to change their practices with its extinction-dashboard. Gariguez also has been Climate-Change activist which factories are violating environmental regulations in their country. If had written a front-page story on him in 2009 when he came to receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award.)

But the struggle continues. She is fighting the reopening of the province's largest community in Point Rizal in the battle to keep forests intact and from offshore oil and gas drilling.

Sofia Gatica, Argentina. A mother whose infant child died as a result of pesticide poisoning, Gatica is organizing local women to stop indiscriminate spraying of toxic agrochemicals in neighboring soy fields.

Leonilla Sienna (the youngest Supreme Court justice to be appointed), Bienvenido Reyes and Jose Portugal Perez. Justices with higher ethical standards would have inhibited themselves, since the case involves the fortunes of the family of Mr. Aquino's appointees' sponsor. Former Associate Justice Antonio Carpio in fact had abstained from the case—on the weak grounds that he handled more than two decades ago the law firm which represented a client that is a party to the case.

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E-mail: tiglao.inquirer@gmail.com

Out of poverty with job creation

COMMENTARY

Ramon Senga and Emmanuel de Dios

Ramon Senga is the director general of the Asian Development Bank's Southeast Asia Department. Emmanuel de Dios is a professor of economics at the University of the Philippines.

Del Rosario's position is the wiser strategy

COMMENTARY

H. Harry L. Roque Jr.

H. Harry L. Roque Jr. is the director of the Institute of International Legal Studies, UP Law Center.

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Energy crisis and climate change

It MIDDENT, but crucial, prerequisite to all our methods of addressing major problems is getting the right people in charge, and how to select them. There is hardly a better way to shape the developed and less developing countries alike. We have tried them all, always with the thought that we have put the right people in charge. But our problems in education, science, energy and poverty all others have become worse.

Every new administration has new programs of reform and new sets of officials. The five new administrations gave us, indeed, many problems. In addition, each succeeding administration has to face increasing global threats from natural and man-made changes.

The right people are those who have made major contributions in their respective fields of endeavor. Hence, the first step to solve major problems is to know how to select the right people. Moreover, one must stay in solving problems, like the recent one on the ongoing energy crisis in Mindanao, did not work in the past.

Why have we not learned the first thing experience?

The most scientist Fred Grimell said in his book "Everyday Practice of Science" (2009) that the nations with no science if one has made only major contributions to one's field which by the 20 Members called "Hall of Knowledge (which shows a list of authors, published titles and citations). Since this requires collection, you can inquire about it from Google Scholar, he added. From the list, choose only the papers published in journals covered in Science Citation Index or Social Sciences Citation Index.

Only such property published on them have the scientist's expertise to evaluate information seriously. The lack of such expertise of the wrong people in charge explains why, even with the advice of respected scientists, this, Grimell's suggestions has not been heeded; and the decisions of those in charge—based largely on personal opinion and common sense—often prevailed. This has been happening through the past decades.

The overall result is one more of mediocre achievements, which is mainly caused by the poor state of science and higher education. Our government leaders have long been reminded of this by their counterparts from developed countries.

In 2010 I said, in a post in the archive for our Parliament, that President Aquino, who has the trust and is the last hope of the Filipino masses, should at least be able to put in place an ever-ever-established mechanism of sustainable progress. Now, President Aquino has still a chance—but more—to choose and put the right people in charge, and make sure they will put in place the established basics of national growth: Higher Education ... Research ... Science ... Technology ... Development.

—FLOR LACANILAO, M.S.
retired professor of marine science, UP Diliman, florlacanilao@gmail.com

LETTERS

FILIPINO leftists stage a rally at the Chinese consulate in Makati, protesting Chinese incursions into Philippine marine territories.

China must learn to respect neighbor-countries

CHINA RECENTLY fined a number on again when it stopped the Philippines in a most unlawful manner.

Shoal, a territory being claimed by both countries. The shoal lies within 124 nautical miles of the coast of Luzon. By acting like a bully, China is hurting its reputation as an emerging power.

If China is to replace the United States as a global power, as analysts believe, it must behave in the same manner. In failing to deal with critical situations with caution, sober thought and tact.

As it grows in influence and territory, so must it grow in sense of accountability. More so because China is the position-only "superior" to the other countries in the region in terms of military and economic might, thereby intimidating them.

The Philippines must always opt for a diplomatic solution, and should push for it with the five United signatories (approximately) to the treaty. Any opportunity to raise issues like these to a multilateral level by underlying the support of its neighbors. As an individual country the Philippines is close to powerless in the face of overwhelming Chinese might. However, as a member of the seven-nation ASEAN bloc, it can be very persuasive. This is because China sees the nation-bloc as a vital trading partner. China knows that in order to create a sustainable and positive relationship with the Asian community, it must learn to treat them more cordially. However, the above comments must show China that we don't know-do as well.

Until the Category 1 status is restored, we have no use an agreement can be entered.

Who, in the way, are the men flyers in the Philippines who, originally, conceived and Concerned which recently had their respective mergers. What happens now to the air agreement?

What is most important is that the Department of Transportation and Communication realizes that the main tourist market for us are the millions of Filipinos in the United States who will always remain our main customer base notwithstanding the new challenge that may come our way in the future. The battleground is a very hostile market in all respects, something which we certainly have to win many of our present visitors who fly the low-cost carriers. You only have the interest of the Filipino people in mind by saying the economy is also human gross, positive family values.

We have a good name in the United States, which is the reason every carrier in the Pacific wants a piece of it. "Even more by a way to get there is to keep the 777s up to the day-to-day ones.

—JUAN JOSE BERENGUER VIDAL, Mandaluyong City, Caraman, 16/1 Chatham House, 2126 Valero corner Salcedo St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

Planting trees: enough of the talking, time for concrete action

THE PROGRAM—one day mangrove planting of pine trees in the Baguio Hill parking lot has gone out of hand. In fact, both DBM and the environmental activists are correct. Old adherents never. It's true corporate social responsibility, while the environmentalists' concern is well-founded. However, the point is we are arguing over 182 pine trees. Send it. Cruz expressed it best in the concluding statement of his April 20 column: "In fact, there should be more information in Baguio even though no pine trees will be cut."

Never mind that Cruz chooses his own idea with a statement saying, "...how long will it take for the thousands of pine seedlings Ed promises to replant to grow."

Enough of the finger-pointing and blaming. Let us join do it. Plant a million pine trees and relieve Baguio City this year. Let's start by propagating the seedlings and to host months pine trees in time for the rainy season. In no time, Baguio will have all the pine trees it needs and everybody will be happy.

For our part, we have initiated the project with our limited resources, expertise and expertise ("Million Trees Program"). By the time you read this, our pine tree seedling nursery on Mountain Province's Bontoc town will have thousands of saplings ready. However, we will be glad if everyone helps.

—ATTY. JOSEPH PEREZ, Executive Director, Trees for Life Foundation Inc., info@treesforlifefoundation.com

If you have any compliment, grievance or suggestion about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Pasong Tamo Extension, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. Letters that are published may be edited and condensed.

Why PH tourism needs PAL to fly Boeing 777s

FEB. 17 will soon be "seen his flying with PAL." ("Turning PAL around," Inquirer, 9/17/11)

But that will only seem when the Department of Tourism (DOT) has the right information (DOT) like the resolutions imposed on PAL for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's use of Category 1 status. Indeed a heavy punishment for the flag carrier, though it's no fault of PAL. The downgrading will not allow PAL to fly the new Boeing 777, forcing the airline to continue operating the old B767s or A330s.

ASIAN MARKETING EFFECTIVENESS FESTIVAL OPENS THIS WEEK WITH OUTSTANDING PROGRAMME

25 April 2012 – The Asian Marketing Effectiveness Festival, now in its 10th year, is Asia Pacific's foremost gathering of marketing, advertising and media industry executives, marketing experts and brand pioneers. Opening this Thursday in Shanghai, the two-day festival will offer attendees a compelling programme of seminars and discussions, networking opportunities and a gala awards presentation honouring clients and their agencies for marketing strategies that deliver solid results that transform businesses and brands.

Some of the world's top marketing gurus will take to the stage to share fresh insights into brand strategy and effectiveness. This year's speakers include: Cheuk Chiang, Chief Executive Officer, Asia Pacific, PHD; Chris Thomas, Chairman and CEO MBDO Asia, Middle East & Africa and Chairman of Proximity Worldwide, BBDO Proximity; James Thompson, Chief Marketing Officer, Diageo Asia Pacific; Laverne Cutts, Vice President, Marketing, Asia Pacific, Kraft Foods; Nayantara Bali, Vice President, Procter & Gamble Asia; Hans Mathias, Senior Vice President Marketing, Unilever; Hans Johansen, Global Digital Leader, Mondelēz International; Bo Wang, Vice President, Marketing, Asia Pacific, Anheuser-Busch InBev; Tim Broadbent, Global Effectiveness Director, Ogilvy & Mather; Tom Goetzoff, North Asia CEO, JWT; Tony Wight, Chairman, Lowe + Partners; and many more world-class names. The full Festival Programme is available to view online with details of all the sessions and speakers.

A panel of 35 industry experts from around Asia-Pacific, chaired by James Thompson, Chief Marketing Officer at Diageo Asia Pacific, have convened in Shanghai and are currently discussing the 115 shortlisted entries against stringent criteria to determine the winners of the prestigious Asian Marketing Effectiveness Awards trophies. Uniting creativity with effectiveness, the Awards honour the role of innovative strategy as well as creative craftsmanship in achieving results. This year a record 971 entries from 21 countries have been submitted.

"The outstanding content programme together with the unveiling of the best effective cases of brand communication makes the Asian Marketing Effectiveness Festival a must-attend event for those interested in driving marketing excellence across Asia-Pacific," Tim Waldron, Managing Director of Haymarket Asia, who with Lions Festivals, jointly organise the event.

The Festival will be held at the Pudong Shangri-La Hotel in Shanghai, 26 and 27 April 2012. The Awards Ceremony Gala Dinner will take place on Thursday, 27 April at which the winners of the 2012 Asian Marketing Effectiveness

Festival will be announced. Delegates to the Festival automatically gain entry to the Awards following them to network and celebrate with their peers.

For further information on the Festival or to register to attend please go to http://www.iome-asia.

Sandigan grants Mike A travel permit

ALL SMILES: Mike Arroyo walks out of the courtroom after a favorable ruling on his application. NONOY ESPINOSA

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SANDIGANBAYAN yesterday granted the husband of former president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo permission to travel to Japan and Hong Kong next month despite the prosecution's objections.

The former first gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo, however, was directed to post a P90,000 bond before leaving.

Arroyo had filed a motion with the anti-graft court for permission to travel, explaining that he was scheduled to meet with businessmen involved in hydroelectric operations and to get some much needed rest.

He said his trip had the approval of his wife and co-accused in the case alleging irregularities in a multimillion-peso deal with China's ZTE corporation for the establishment of a national broadband network (NBN) in the country.

Former President Arroyo is currently under hospital arrest for another case—electoral sabotage, which is a nonbailable offense.

Mike Arroyo is scheduled to leave for Japan on May 3 then to fly to Hong Kong on May 6 before returning to the Philippines on May 10.

Arroyo vowed to settle home on the scheduled date. He said responses he was entitled to the presumption of innocence while the graft case was being heard, and still had the constitutional right to travel.

"I'm not a flight risk. I will return. It will be just for a week," he said.

"I have the permission of my wife," he said, also having asked about his leaving his safe behind.

In Japan, Arroyo is set to speak before the Filipino community in Kitagawa-ku in Tokyo on May 5. He will also meet with Japanese businessmen involved in hydroelectric operations. He said he would try to talk about new investments in the country.

The trip to Hong Kong, he said, was for rest and recreation.

"I also need to relax," he said.

His lawyer, Atlas Bonifacio Balanon, said the former first gentleman has suffered so much political pressure, and also wants to get away from Manila's summer heat.

Earlier, the prosecution objected to Arroyo's motion to travel on the ground that the trip was not an urgent matter and he cannot be failed to provide his schedule of activities.

The Arroyos have denied any wrongdoing in the NBN-ZTE deal. Other co-accused in the case are former elections chief Benjamin Abalos and former Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

The ZTE-NBN deal was eventually canceled amid allegations of bribery and overpricing.

Meanwhile, prosecutors yesterday appealed former president Arroyo's motion for the prosecution to produce for inspection the material evidence they have against her so she could prepare for the pre-trial.

Ex-DAR exec faces bribe rap

A FORMER agrarian reform officer of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) has been charged with direct bribery before the Sandiganbayan for allegedly asking for P150,000 from a lawyer of the Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. in exchange for a favorable ruling of a land case.

The charges against Napoleon Bagallay, the regional agrarian reform officer for CAR and a relative of Hagan Rep. Teodoro Baguilat, stemmed from a complaint brought by Sta. Lucia lawyer Michael Dorror.

Sta. Lucia had a case pending in Bagallay's office when the alleged bribery took place.

Baguilat has denied Dorror's allegations, claiming to be a declared public servant as selected by the numerous awards for public service that he had received.

But the Office of the Ombudsman said Baguilat's defense, consisting of mere denials, could not be given greater weight than the declaration of credible witnesses.

Dorror alleged that Baguilat asked for his financial help in 2001, saying that it was needed to support for topless who was running for Ifugao governor.

Dorror said she had declined at first, arguing that Sta. Lucia had no business interest in the province. However, Baguilat then reminded Sta. Lucia's pending case against the heirs of Baguilat's mother and asked what she wanted him to do about it.

After Baguilat gave her a copy of a favorable decision in the case, Dorror said she gave him P150,000.

However, she claimed that she or her lawyer never formally released to the parties and did not become part of the secrets of the case.

Dorror said Baguilat later asked for more money claiming he needed it for medication, and she gave him P250,000. When he called again, asking for more money, Dorror said she delayed and refused to take his calls.

Leila B. Salaverria

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Tokyo, Japan

Sama - sama sa tibay at saya!

May 6 Clark Parade Grounds, Pampanga

REGISTRATION

1. Entrance to the event is open to all, FREE of charge. Registration will be open from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon, at the venue's designated area.
2. All BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink Kiddies activities are open to those aged 7 years old and above.
3. Non-competing participants can join in the free-for-all toy flying activity from 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon.
4. Participants aged 0-17 years old should be accompanied by their parents or legal guardian.

RITE-FLITING COMPETITION MECHANICS

1. The kite-flying competition is open to those aged 7 years old and above. Participants aged 7-17 years old should be accompanied by their parents or legal guardian and must submit an accomplished application form and a photocopy of any of the following enlisted identification cards: valid card/passport/school ID, or any valid ID issued by the Philippine government and its instrumentalities (e.g. driver's license, passport, SSS card, etc.).
2. To join, the participant must surrender the required number of BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink, BEAR BRAND CHOCO, or BEAR BRAND BLISSS (LYSOS) empty packs. Packaging should be at least 70% intact and readable. Acceptability of each pack is subject to the discretion of the event organizer. To qualify for one entry, the acceptable brands and sizes the participant must surrender are any of the following:
2 pcs BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink 150g, 3 pcs BEAR BRAND CHOCO 150g, 2 pcs BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink 300g, 2 pcs BEAR BRAND CHOCO 300g, 4 pcs BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink 66g, 15 pcs BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink sachet 33g, 10 pcs BEAR BRAND BLISSS (LYSOS) Grade A Choco sachets, 1 pc BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink 600g, 1 pc BEAR BRAND CHOCO 600g
3. All participants of the Kite-Flying competition will get a free official BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink Kiddie T-shirt, along with color-coded tags and IDs.
4. All competition kites must carry a BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink packet (provided by the event organizer). The minimum size is 0x2 feet and the approved materials are paper, cloth, or any similar light material such as waxed bamboo, etc. Metal connectors may also be used (max of 2 inches).
5. Each registered kite shall be good for one division: Kids / Young Adults / Family and each category (Kite / Geometric). To qualify for the Young Adults division, one is required to be 17 years old and above.
Family division must be comprised of 2-3 members who are related. Youngest member should be 7 years old and above and must have one adult accompanying him/her.
6. A participant can only register in one division.
7. Kids and Young Adults divisions will only have the Flat category. The Family division will only have a Geometric category.
Category definition as follows:
• Flat: Two-dimensional kites in any shape
• Geometric: Three-dimensional kites with basic shapes
Marshals from the Kite Association of the Philippines (KAP) will identify the categories for the run-in-quarts.
8. Kites will be pre-launched on-ground before flying it will be measured for size and assessed for how airborne it is on-ground and while airborne.
9. Criteria for judging is as follows:
Creative use of materials/Craftsmanship (25%)
Freshness of design (25%)
Airborne visual appeal (25%)
Overall impact (25%)
10. Judges are members of the Kite Association of the Philippines (KAP).
11. In case of a tie, judges will reassess the kites on ground and maneuvering themselves which one will win. The kite with the lower score will take the succeeding rank/slot.

12. The officiating team's decision is final. The officiating team will be composed of members of the KAP.
13. Employees of Nestlé Philippines Inc., its advertising and promotional agencies, and all its suppliers, as well as their spouses and relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining.
14. Winners in the Sta. Rosa leg will not be eligible to join the Kite-Flying competition in Clark, Pampanga.
15. Judges for the special awards will include representatives from Nestlé Philippines Inc.
16. Three (3) winners each from the Flat and Geometric categories will be announced and awarded Nestlé gift packs and cash prizes. Cash prizes per division are as follows:

Division	Category	Prize
Kids (age 7-15 years old)	Flat	P 5,000 P 3,000 P 2,000
Teens (age 16 years old above)	Flat	P 5,000 P 3,000 P 2,000
Family (at least 2 members)	Geometric	P 10,000 P 6,000 P 4,000

TICKET REDEMPTION SCHEME

1. All participants aged 7 years old and above are qualified to join in joint the raffle draw. See kit redemption and prize levels. Follow the ticket redemption scheme below and surrender any of the following:

1 Ticket	1 pc BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink 150g, 1 pc BEAR BRAND CHOCO 150g, 2 pcs BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink 66g, 3 pcs BEAR BRAND CHOCO 66g, 5 pcs BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink sachet 33gx or 1/2 pcs BEAR BRAND BLISSS (LYSOS) 150g (or at 2 choco variants)
2 Tickets	1 pc BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink 300g or 1 pc BEAR BRAND CHOCO 300g
3 Tickets	1 pc BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink 600g, 1 pc BEAR BRAND CHOCO 600g or 1 pc BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink 1.2kg

2. Tickets can be redeemed at the ticket booth. Empty packs must be surrendered upon exchange for a ticket/coupon.

RAFFLE DRAW PRIZES

Grand Prize	Three (3) winners of a trip for two (2) to Subic Ocean Adventure and P1,000 pocket money Five (5) winners of (2) sets of P1,000 to Lladro Rosas.com
Consolation Prize	Twenty (20) winners of P500 worth of Nestlé gift packs

* Tickets and IDs shall be valid for a period of three (3) months corresponding to the validity date indicated therein.
* Transportation not included.
* All prizes are non-convertible to cash.

SPECIAL AWARDS

1. The Sandugong ni Nora Aunor Award will be given to the best BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink kite. This kite should have the most creative and accurate rendition of the team's properties (e.g. BEAR BRAND Powdered Milk Drink logo and colors, Kape Bear, interpretation of the event theme "Sama-sama sa Tibay at Saya," etc.).
2. The Beary Big Kite Award will be awarded to the biggest flying kite. This kite should meet the largest square footage and must be capable of flying for a minimum of three minutes to qualify.
3. Cash prizes for the special awards are as follows:

Award	Prize
Sandugong ni Nora Aunor Award	P 5,000
Beary Big Kite Award	P 5,000

David with granddaughter in living room during attack

By Nancy C. Carvajal, DJ Tap and Cynthia D. Baldauf

INQUIRER reinforcements Family friend was with his 10-year-old granddaughter in the living room when gunmen strafed their home on the campus of the University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman, Quezon City, on Tuesday night.

"I have no human weapons and I could not understand why some people resort to our shot," UP professor Edgardo Angara, the university's chief executive officer, quoted David, also a university professor, as saying in the UP police station responded to the strafing.

Angara, who visited the premises the morning that three men in the vehicle until plate No. UDM 101 fired at David's house at No. 17 Severo Gumboma and E. Aguinaldo Streets in Area 1 at around 9:50 p.m. and at 9:55 p.m.

Dagdag added that David's first instinct when he heard the shots, was to protect his granddaughter Julia as he shouted to others on deep in the floor. Julia is the daughter of GMA 7 personality reporter Kara David.

The strafing hit the car of David's wife in the garage.

Kara reported the matter on Twitter, saying nobody was injured in the incident.

Julia family is OK. Papa and mama's safe in the living room," she wrote. Good thing the vehicle was parked in the garden. I'm still traumatizing him at his dads. #silentnight #Pangasinan (The ballet for that and not them. Thank God), "Kara tweeted.

Witness

A witness, who reported the strafing to the UP police, said she was with her husband and their baby when she saw a heavily tinted 18 Tamaraw stop in front of David's house, and someone who fired three shots.

"But nobody stepped out of the vehicle when the shots were fired," the witness, who asked not to be named, told reporters.

She said she saw the FX come back and someone on board fired a single shot. "They returned after five minutes as if they had waited for someone to come out of the house," the witness added.

Puzzling

Dagdag described the strafing as puzzling because he said David, a longtime professor of sociology-UP, was well-respected.

"That's why the security camera installed to (This) is design. And we are looking into (see) possibilities," he said.

But the UP professor declined to share his theories, saying he would first talk to David, whom he described as a good person.

Dagdag said David was surprised by the attack.

No one was hurt in the strafing although the right fender of the David's Toyota Innova had a bullet hole, according to the UP security chief. A dog was found in the vehicle.

An owner's verification check at the Land Transportation Office revealed that the plate number of the FX was registered to a Nissan "utility vehicle," owned by Enrique Pamaran of Ermita, Read province.

Footage

Dagdag said the UP police had obtained a copy of the footage of the security camera in the vicinity of the strafing.

Interior Secretary Jesse M. Robredo ordered the family of David to take extra care following the strafing.

He said the Davids had declined offers of police protection, even as they were puzzled by what could have prompted the attack.

"I talked to his wife (former Civil Service Commission chair) Karina David and she couldn't understand why the attack happened as all since Professor David is almost semi-retired," Robredo said.

He recalled asking Karina if she could think of any remote motive possible. "She answered none, as far as I know," he said.

Be careful

Robredo said he just advised the family to be careful about their movements and to let the police know if they have any information that is not "normal."

Asked about the state of security on the UP campus in Diliman, he said the UP system was in a better position to explain as the university has its own police force independent from the Quezon City police.

Rep. Sherwin Tugna of the Citizen's Battle Against Corruption, condemned the strafing of David's house.

Tugna urged the police to look into the incident and provide adequate protection to David, whom he described as a "living national treasure" for his incisive and thought-provoking analyses of social issues.

Chief Supt. Marcelo de la Rosa, Quezon City Police District director, said they would provide David with a security detail even if he had not formally filed any complaint.

"With or without the complaint, we intend to coordinate the investigation and deploy police personnel to the area," he la Rosa said.

He said a slug found in David's vehicle would be subjected to ballistic tests to trace its origin.

China rejects PH bid to bring shoal dispute to int'l court

By Jerry E. Esplanada

CHINA is only reacts the Philippines' request to bring the Scarborough Shoal dispute to the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), but the Philippines is not giving up.

The Philippine proposal is symbol, but Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo insisted and the Philippines would send a formal invitation to China.

Del Rosario said Manila "would like to find a way to settle the dispute (with Beijing)," but in the same time upheld the Philippines' "sovereignty and sovereign rights" over the shoal, located 124 nautical miles (223 kilometers) west of Zambales province.

Del Rosario maintains that Ritai is the right body to ascertain which country, the Philippines or China, has sovereign rights over the shoal.

Located in Hamburg, Germany, Ritai is an independent judicial body established in 1982 by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as a mechanism in dispute arising from interpretations and application of the UN convention.

Final decision

Zhang Yesui, spokesperson of the Chinese Embassy in Manila, told the Inquirer on Tuesday that China's decision not to bring the conflict to Ritai for arbitration is final.

Zhang insisted that the shoal, which Beijing calls Huangyan Island, "is China's inherent territory (on which) we have sufficient legal basis."

The Philippines, on the other hand, refers to the shoal as Bajo de Masinloc and Panatag Shoal, and insists it belongs to the country.

In a text message, Zhang said Manila should "fully respect China's decision."

He said the Philippine government must "commit to the consensus we reached on settling the incident through friendly diplomatic consultations, and not to complicate or aggravate this incident so that peace and stability to that area can be resolved."

Lines remain open

Raul Hernandez, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) spokesperson, told reporters on Tuesday that hopefully, the dispute would be resolved as quickly as possible with discussions with the Chinese side."

"We continue to invite them in order to have a dialogue solution not only to the Scarborough Shoal issue but also to the Spratly dispute in the West Philippine Sea," he said.

If the Chinese side insisted on not going to Ritai, he said, "we are prepared to do it alone."

According to Hernandez, "our lines are open to Chinese officials and several meetings have been scheduled per."

Last week, the DFA said, talks between the two sides ended in a stalemate.

At 'Karburo,' Pinoys fish, laugh, eat, drink with Chinese, Viet fishermen

From page A1

session, food and even a drink or two with the foreigners.

"We have no problems with them. Sometimes we even go aboard each other's boats to drink and have a little fun," Fronte said in Filipino.

Karburo is internationally known as Scarborough Shoal, a group of well-submerged rock formations 124 nautical miles (223 kilometers) west of Zambales province that both China and the Philippines claim as part of their territory.

The Philippines calls the area Panatag Shoal (Tranquil) or as it is known in Hanyuyan's Island.

On April 14, Fronte, who had done it the last 12 years, set out to sea with fellow fishermen. They steered their boats toward Karburo, the place nearest to the shoal that abound with fish.

It's only money

But the following day at about noon, they were greeted at the shoal by a small flotilla of vessels carrying Philippine Coast Guard personnel.

"They said we shouldn't stay there anymore. They said there was going to be trouble with the Chinese," Fronte said. "But, more with the Chinese had fought before, but this was different, he said.

Fronte earned three of the fishing boats in the shoal. He is divorced but is supporting his children and his parents.

"I didn't want to risk drawing the ire of the Chinese, as he might do the other members," he said. "Besides, it is only money. We'll just go back later, when things return to normal."

Fronte's boats and the others left the area without any catch, forgoing tens of thousands of pesos, and returned to their village here.

"It was like a procession," Fronte said. "There were nine of us, with about 70 fishermen on board. Nobody stayed behind, except the foreign fishermen."

Fronte said why the group chose the 22-hour trip to Scarborough, risking being blocked by Chinese patrol vessels in the area. Fronte said: "It's the only place around where we can catch tons of fish. And that's for sure, so long as the weather is good. If we stay around Masinloc, for that, we won't catch much."

Sharing sea's bounty

Fronte said proud of the dwindling richness as a fishing ground was not always like that. It was so due to different varieties of fish he catch boat on trips that would last for at least a week. On good days, the boats would unload large schools of jacks, tangus (Spanish mackerel), maya-maya (red snapper), lobster and a fish known here as tarsigan.

From January to April, Fronte said, fishermen from Zambales, Bataan and Pangasinan provinces converge on Scarborough Shoal, along with fishermen from China, Vietnam and Taiwan, to share the sea's bounty.

But from May to December, only a few risk going there. "That's when there are storms, and the weather is generally bad," Fronte explained. "You won't catch much there."

He said Filipino fishermen used spears to catch fish and cuttlefish, to benefit under seam.

"We put the fish in ice during transport. We have people who stay there for weeks on end, and the other who stay for one. Bob hand back to Masinloc," he said.

"This has been our way of life for a long time. I've been doing this for more than 12 years, but some of my men have been doing this for decades," he said.

The trip back to Masinloc, where their boats are heavy with the catch, takes 15 to 18 hours, he said.

No animosity

No Filipino fishermen have gone to blows through since the standoff between Chinese and Philippine vessels began nearly a month ago, Fronte said.

"We were say the Chinese marine surveillance vessels an unusual event of the year in the past, they rarely, if ever, come near Karburo so stayed long," he said.

"They just usually made their rounds and then left. They were not involved with our fishing there before," he said.

Fronte said he believed Scarborough Shoal belonged to the Philippines, but he said his men felt no animosity toward foreign fishermen coming to the area.

"We hope this will be resolved soon because our families rely on Karburo to make a living. We have done so far a very long time," he said.

Cyanide fishing

Dario Ibay, 36, head of Masinloc's Bantay Dagat (sea patrol), said the only problem with some foreigners fishing in the shoal is their use of sodium cyanide.

"Fishermen who have been there say that some foreigners use drums of this stuff to stun fish, and the confused fish come up when they float," Ibay said.

"This is harmful to the environment. The coral are destroyed, the cyanide bleaches them," he said. "Our fishermen only use spears, but they come back with tons of fish every time they go there."

Ibay said Masinloc fishermen, who have been prohibited from returning to the shoal until the standoff is resolved, had to be satisfied with fishing in Masinloc Bay.

'Bajo de Masinloc'

Masinloc Councilor Helen Galiano said old maps and documents show that Scarborough Shoal belongs to the Philippines.

"It was named Bajo de Masinloc by the Spaniards, and in Madrid, they have maps showing that place within Philippine territory," she said.

Galiano said the shoal is only 124 nautical miles from the town of Masinloc, which is even farther use to sea than Scarborough, so how can the Chinese claim that it belongs to them?" she said.

Masinloc, she said, was one of the earliest towns in Luzon under the auspices of Zambales and fishing were former villagers of Masinloc.

"That's why when the distance between Zambales and Scarborough was measured, they used Masinloc as a reference point. Fishing was still part of Masinloc dove," she said.

Historic claim

A resolution passed by the town council in March last year stated that Masinloc has a "historical claim" to Scarborough Shoal, which was cited in Republic Act No. 9522, the law that defines the archipelagic base lines of the Philippines.

The Masinloc resolution, which the Zambales provincial government has endorsed, read: "Scarborough Shoal/Bajo, as Panatag Shoal (its Philippine name), more correctly described as a group of islands and reefs, is an atoll shape than a shoal, which is located between the Philippines and China, and in the Philippines, to the (West Philippine Sea) and as with rest of the landforms in that sea, sovereignty over the area is disputed.

"Ethnic references exclude this atoll from inclusion in the Kalayaan Islands, of which the closest is 158 km to the southwest," the resolution said.

The resolution described the shoal as "a triangle shaped chain of reefs and islands (formerly) rocked 55 km seaward from the coast of 150 km. It has a lagoon with (an) area of 130 sq km and depth of about 15 meters."

It said many of the reefs are "just below water at high tide, although there are a couple of the largest are more of an irregular, 0.3 meters high."

Support from Zambales

Vice Gov. Ramon Lachan Jr. said the people of Zambales and Masinloc supported the claim of the Philippine government that Scarborough Shoal is part of the Philippines.

Lachan said the dispute should be settled through diplomacy and not through arms.

If China and the Philippines cannot settle the dispute by themselves, then the first solution is to go the international court, Lachan said.

P-Noy takes Grace Lee to Brasil '12 concert

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pointed when the President and Lee were led in an area of the lower box section reserved for the Araneta clan.

The buoyant crowd to take a misguided when the President entered the scene, but was stopped by his bodyguards.

Also spotted enjoying the concert were a number of other popular figures, including former Presidential Joseph Estrada with wife Loi, businessman Tuesday Cojuangco with partner Gwendoe Barreto, and club owner Lenin Vaisael, who came with Karen Jimeno, one of the defense lawyers in the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Size

The show opened with 10-piece singer 1811 performing seven numbers, combining songs of Bong Revilla and Ryan Cayabyab's hits and his own compositions—all you dowd to know new style.

She seemed overwhelmed by the thought of their acting for a major foreign artist like Lee, who drew a large number of people, and was groping for words while doing her spiels.

Waters of March

Members' first was songs, "Waters of March" and "Pretty Woman," were the only hints he opened with during his last gig at the Big Dome six years ago. But this time he played them with a more syncopated beat, adding Brubeck to the original acoustic versions.

When Morales greeted the crowd, he explained that his access friend and the Philippines shared common traits...their people are romantic and love to party. He hinted that his dates would take a musical journey through bossa nova—a slower variation of samba, a Brazilian creation—and other sounds associated with his career.

Girl from Ipanema

What followed was his take on "Girl from Ipanema," whose music was originally written by his friend and contemporary Antonio Carlos Jobim. Morales' voice was soothing, his playing out of "Bye Bye Blackbird," "One More Samba," "Going Out of My Head" and "Bridges."

The audience reacted with approval upon hearing a movement of classic selections by Morales. "The Trouble With Hel. Is It Goodbye," "Aquas de Beber," "One More Samba," "Going Out of My Head" and "Bridges."

Most of the crowds were fans filled by a duo of female singers, a trademark of Morales' act which first gained worldwide notice when he scored a hit, "Mas Que Nada," featuring the young Lani Hall as part of his band, Brasil 66.

Though many of his record-ed pieces were cover versions of other foreign artists, Morales' popularity grew further and settle because he transformed these tunes with his own cool and soothing touch, with a dash of jazz.

Rap

He has also updated his sound with contemporary grooves like hip hop, which he successfully employed during the show when "Aquas de Beber" featured a singer rapping along to the song.

Another track, "Chove Chuva," had a funky groove. Morales smashing the keyboards with child-like delight.

His band delivered the goods as well, improvising with marvellous timing. Just leave how to stop during classics show that Scarborough Shoal belongs to the Philippines.

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HOT TOPIC ON HOT DATE President Aquino and ninth date Grace Lee in concert

HARD WITH THE HOE In sun more than a century of toil before Hacienda Luisita's farmers, like Ace Lana, finally ended their bondage to the landowners. Lana nurses fears three generations of Lanas working as tiu backwards. STORY BY CHARLIE MANUEL | PHOTO BY JOAN LANDICHO

'It's the end of three generations of slavery'

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president, called on "income-plus victory".

Noynoy's father and namesake is afraid for him.

Noynoy Sr. feared his son would suffer the fate of Eduardo Ranosa, president of the United Luisita Workers Union (Ulwu), who was murdered, after the strike last year.

"If the family in Luisita are ill-natly given to us, this will end three generations of slaves of the land and landowners," Noynoy Sr. said.

He said his parents, Tomas and Pelin, were among the few in about the family in a Spanish who originally owned the mill and the plantation then filled with workers.

"I'm too happy. I cannot describe it to you," the older Noynoy said.

The feeling of freedom came a day after the Supreme Court issued a final ruling that set the value of the estate, as just compensation to the Cojuangco family in the price prevailing in 1989.

That year, Judge Soto Noynoy Cruz, Chadwick restored a top with 6,296 farm workers from Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) under the stock distribution option (SDO) in the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), which the late President Corazon Aquino began in 1988.

Family's 1st landowners

Luisa said the high court's decision also gave justice to his parents, Antonio and Norma who, like him, worked on daily wage earners in the plantation. He said Tomas and his other children might just be the first landowning members in the family. He finished Grade 4 while his son reached Grade 6.

For this cropping season, he leased out a one-hectare land in Barangay Magsaysay for P10,000.

"I will ask the planter to whom I leased the one-hectare property to share with me half of the proceeds because I am now the owner of this land," he said.

He had himself and Tano lured in bloom, too that he has to with to share ownership of the property, making a claim on it after the 2001 strike when the Cojuangcos sold it, decided to stop farming.

"We had to run," he said, explaining why he took over the land.

Lana also plans to till rice and vegetables when he finds the money to support this enterprise.

Joy, hope

Leonilla Lanza, 46, organizer-personnel from the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) is another to wait the survey. No DAR employee came through.

Filomena Inocencio, DAR Central Luisita director, said a team would come next week to explain the acquisition and distribution processes.

The Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) would be produced within six months for a year, he said.

Nanpil, 30, likened the happiness he was feeling to the joy a first time father feels. "My reliance now was removed," he said.

In Bagac City, where he and 16 farm workers were to listen in the airing of the high court on Tuesday, he said he died tears of joy and hope.

But what was not clear was how HLI will do what the court had ordered them to do: pay farm workers P1.3 billion for the lands it sold to Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) and the areas sold for the construction of Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX).

"We need to clarify this in an oral argument on May 2," he said.

Fight not over

Nanpil said he Ambala, the "fight is not yet over and complete."

They are still claiming Dr. 500 by the Cojuangcos transferred to Luisita Industrial Park, which sold these to a Japanese company in 1996. The RCBC took over the property in 2006 when the Japanese firm failed to pay for the land. The case is being heard in a local court.

Much of the 4,915 ha entered distributed by the Supreme Court has been leased to sugar planters, according to a study by the Center for Research and Special Studies. The leases are known locally as "sprocket".

Nanpil said Ambala would not recognize the arbitrators even if the leases were paid in advance. "Those are illegal arrangements," he said.

Ambala, he said, prefers to pay the amortizations for the land in 30 years. At P40,000 per hectare, he estimated that to be at P111 monthly.

"Our original demand was to distribute these lands for free. The Cojuangcos have benefited from it and, for 50 years already," he said. "We should possess our slavery."

Event local

Farm workers want to remember the land to feed their families, said Virgilio Pilipinas, 61.

Her main emotional on Tuesday night because the high court's decision gave justice to her son, Val, and nephew, Abel Ludena. Val, a New People's Army rebel, died from wounds in an encounter with soldiers last year. Ludena was murdered after the 2009 riot.

"It's good to be fighting for your rights. Many people will benefit from this fight," she said.

Stockholders' lament

Federico Lara Jr. said his father, who died last year of a liver ailment, and brother Jesus, who died in the 2004 riot, could be smiling down on them now. "You can't buy the joy I'm feeling."

Lara has farmed about a hectare away before the CARP process gave him control in Luisita.

Those who voted for the SDO in 1989 and in 2003 believed they were entitled to get lands, too.

"If that's the decision, then all must benefit. It's hard to go against them," said Modesto Tibus.

Manuelo Vicdan said SDO holders like him were being swindled by militants.

"We just wanted to have jobs. So far, full income with the SDO. We have a land economy. When the beneficiaries of lands don't have money anymore, they will sell the land economically and we all lose the capital that is the land," Vicdan said.

Corona sure of P-Noy retaliation over SC ruling

By Michel Ramos

THE MAN some credited for demanding Hacienda Luisita is going for a possible countermatch from the Aquino administration.

Impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona yesterday said he sees certain that the government would get back at him after the Supreme Court thumbed down the attempt of President Aquino's family to secure a higher valuation for sugar plantation.

In a text message to reporters, Corona refused to take credit for the victory of 6,296 workers after three decades of legal battles.

"I'm not a champion," Corona said of the so-called "champion of agrarian reform" given to him by some farmers' groups. "We just did what is right and fair. That is social justice as ordained by the Constitution."

Main reason

Asked if he was expecting a retaliation from the Aquino administration for the high court's decision, he said: "Ognosab. (That's for sure)."

Corona, who is facing an impeachment trial in the Senate for alleged culpable violation of the Constitution, claims that the tollroad's June 23, 2011, ruling, which ordered the distribution of the estate, was the main reason Mr. Aquino wanted to oust him.

In his separate and concurring opinion in the court's November 2011 ruling, the Chief Justice said the stock distribution option in the hacienda is less of land distribution was unconstitutional.

Corona said the 1987 Constitution acknowledged the "primacy of the right of farmers and farmworkers to directly or collectively own the lands they till."

"Any artificial or superficial substitutes, such as the stock distribution plan, diminishes the right and defeats the constitutional intent," Corona said.

Land distribution is no Amorsolo painting

From page A1

Monsod. "He should make a model of Luisita. He should show some specific relief to the farmers while they wait for the rules of their land."

He said many farmers in the hacienda were in dire straits and were having only two meals a day.

"He said time after the farmers received their victory, the President didn't even order government assistance to assist the farmers during the transition period," Monsod said.

The Supreme Court, voting 8-6, on Tuesday affirmed its Nov. 22, 2011 decision ordering and nulling for the distribution of the estate to its workers, dismissing the hacienda's bid to secure at least P1 billion as "just compensation" and pegging its valuation to 1989 prices, or around P1.96 million to P466,000 per hectare.

The Hacienda covers P3.66 per square meter, or P1 million per hectare at the very least and says that productivity and land values in adjoining property should likewise be considered, according to its spokesperson, Antonio Ligot.

Long and tedious

Debie Reyes said that reviewing the 4,915 hectares of land, plotting the areas and irrigation canals, interviewing the 6,296 farmer-beneficiaries and their choice of preferences, and subdividing lots into individual titles would be "long and tedious."

Barring any hitches, like the filing of a case, the process of verification, order inspection and allocation, could be finished before the end of the year, he said.

This could not surprise since the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) needs the parameters of the ruling, he said.

Hacienda Luisita has been described as a "Bonsai tree" of the plantation in the sugar areas.

The DENR should step in for the next six months until they get their land. Otherwise, they'll die from hunger, they'll lose the money," said Monsod, who spoke with Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman earlier yesterday to relay the farmers' concerns.

The DAR has managed to collect P55 billion, instead of P60 billion, for the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (Carper) from 2003 to 2012, constituting the budget for support services for the beneficiaries, according to Monsod.

"If you give them land, you give them the money," said Monsod, a former election commissioner and member of the committee that drafted the 1987 Constitution.

"The bitter test of agrarian reform is the delivery of support services," said Magsaysay Mayor Jerry Yap in Tarlac province.

Yap's hometown has one workers group: FARMS Luisita.

End-whiny-wealthy position

Bel Reyes of the farmers' alliance Kamanggan said of the court ruling: "This is a historic victory for farmers. There's nothing left for the President but to end his whiny-wealthy position on this, show the right path and order DAR to speedily distribute Hacienda Luisita."

Kamanggan advises advocates and other sectoring offices, Reyes added, to help the beneficiaries and DAR to be aware of the nation's address (Home) and speeches.

Jaime Tadeo, farmers' representative in the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council for Luzon, said the farmers have benefited from the struggling between Mr. Aquino and Supreme Court Chief Justice Renato Corona, who is facing an impeachment trial in the Senate.

"It's God working straight lines through crooked lines," he said of the ruling.

Pinoy chef serves PH secret cuisine wonders

From page A1

noodle soup dishes at Chinese fine-dining restaurants in offering a taste of Asian food, but there are comparatively very few places serving Filipino dishes.

Back home, many locals also undoubtedly prefer their meals fast and cheap — or the style of Tatan, whose Asian Lechon Express — with deep-fried chicken and barbecue pig skins dominating the food scene.

But standing in his kitchen over a huge pot of pork bone marrow slowly simmering in a traditional adobo-style mix of vinegar, soy sauce and garlic, Tang insists Philippine food can "serve" as much as any other in Asia.

'Misunderstood cuisine'

"It's a very misunderstood cuisine. Firstly, Filipino cuisine is so diverse," Tang says as he stirs the pork that he is preparing by dozens of guests who have gathered at his home.

"You cannot generalize in one sentence. You need a whole day, a whole month to talk about it."

Tang, an artist, writer and chef, has turned his culinary knowledge of Asia's diverse cuisines into a culinary endeavor where diners feast on a 10-course meal that takes them on a culinary tour of the archipelago.

The lunchtime extravaganza lasts for three hours and one version of his menu starts with an eclectic mix of dips — from mango-ginger chutney to a pesto made from the native pili nut.

It ends with a Filipino version of the Italian panna cotta, made with pandan leaves — which has a higher fat content and is thicker than that produced by cows.

In between, grilled chicken is served after being marinated in lemongrass and calamansi.

Throughout the afternoon, diners wash down their food with cups of ice-cold tea made from calamansi juice, ginger, lemongrass and honey.

Drinkers' delight

A juice bucket highlight for diners is when they reveal around Tang's table photos on their specific preferences of sour-to-savory and still, to cool.

"This isn't going to be easy if I give this many instructions, they'll be fighting with one another," he said.

The menu is composed of 10 dishes divided into 17th lots. The would even suffix be subdivided into parcels for distribution to the beneficiaries.

Monsod cautioned farmers against falling for a new scheme by the owners of Hacienda Luisita to keep the land.

"There are reports that Hacienda Luisita is offering cash to farmers to come up with a lease-back agreement with an option to buy. The cash is tempting. It's P150,000 a year. If that's happening, say appeal to Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac do that to farmers," he said. He said a leaseback agreement was not valid unless approved by the DAR.

Debie Reyes said Land Bank of the Philippines would determine the value of the estate, based on productivity and profitability. While the landowners could question this, it would not deter the acquisition and distribution process and the eventual issuance of individual titles to the beneficiaries, he said. "The farmers would pay less than what the government would pay."

DSWD, DILG aid needed

In calling for massive government intervention to help the farmers stand on their feet as mandated by CARP, Monsod warned that in DAR implements the court decision, they would lose benefits from the land itself.

Monsod said the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) should take the lead in mobilizing support services, while the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) should deploy policemen to ensure order in the sugar areas.

"The DENR should step in for the next six months until they get their land. Otherwise, they'll die from hunger, they'll lose the money," said Monsod, who spoke with Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman earlier yesterday to relay the farmers' concerns.

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SIZZLING at a Festival in Angeles City

to surprise a pork dish called *sinigang* and grilled pigeon and pops on a frying pan.

Popular particularly among late-night beer drinkers around the Philippines, *sinigang* is made of finely-chopped pigs' ears and cheeks. Tang serves it with boiled chicken livers, calamansi extract, white onion, salt and chili.

Both these dishes have to be made weeks in advance for the restaurant that Tang runs with his ethnomusicologist wife, Mary Ann, who entertains the guests as hostess with in-depth descriptions of all the dishes.

Tang, 55, says his restaurant's popularity is underpinned by a small but developing food culture in the Philippines.

"In every major province, there are people like us, working for the preservation and the propagation of slow-cooked food," Tang says.

"And one can see there's a rediscovery of Filipino cuisine ... It's come about slowly with the emergence of high-end Filipino restaurants in Manila, but also the cable TV food and cooking shows. And the food bloggers."

Indeed, 11 years ago Antaas held its serving top-end versions of traditional Filipino food were rarely in Manila, let alone in out-of-the-way locations such as Tang's home of the city of Pampanga province.

Junk food

Nowadays — propelled also by a fast-growing middle class — Filipino restaurants are sharing in the food-crazy mood in the Philippines' major cities.

Nevertheless, Tang acknowledges that 120-style junk food remains the most popular option for most of the nearly 100 million Filipinos alive. They choose to dine out, particularly the masses who want cheap options.

"We want to create awareness. We are not losing our traditional ways ... with the onslaught of fast food, the junk and all that. We have the diversity and the richness," he says.

Tang, who has written or coauthored three books promoting Filipino food, has won some international recognition for his efforts, with celebrity American chef Anthony Bourdain featuring him on his television show "No Reservations."

Bourdain is reportedly enthusiastic with Tang's varied dishes, and also with a trip to Cebu City where he tasted one of the country's favorite meals — whole roasted pig.

Having shared its crispy skin and juicy meat, Bourdain raised five pork — known as "lechon" — on the back for last orders on the menu. Everyone else had already finished it just ahead of the session found in restaurant's flat.

'Linumream'

For Tang, such recommendations are proof that the Philippines can one day stand alongside the likes of Thailand and Vietnam, one of Southeast Asia's famed food destinations.

"We always hear why Filipino cuisine hasn't made it internationally, like our Asian neighbors. Well basically it's just not understood very well," he says.

Asked to describe Filipino food, Tang says it does not necessarily have the savoury food, intense flavors like spicy Indian or Thai dishes.

"Our flavors are more nuanced ... there's a fusion of sweet, sour, salty and bitter," he says.

Tang then explains one of his favorite expressions to describe how people in the Philippines feel when they eat the food they love — *linumream*.

Linumream is when it has no direct translation in English, refers to a thrill, an excitement, a tingling sensation. AFP

In-sync Jazz grab last ticket to playoffs

THE Utah Jazz grabbed the final spot in the Western Conference playoffs with a 100-88 home victory over Phoenix, dashing the Suns' seven-year season hopes on Tuesday.

Paul Millsap recorded 26 points and 13 rebounds as the Jazz outpaced Phoenix in the fourth quarter to become the last NBA team to punch their ticket to the playoffs. *Reuters*

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoste

SPORTS

Texters even Finals series

By Mycaa R. Castillo

THIS time, it was Talk 'N Text which made the most out of the opportunities that came its way.

The Tropang Texters squared their best-of-seven title series for the PBA Commissioner's Cup after a 104-102 tipping of the Llamados, who were the ones bungling golden chances late tonight at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

Talk 'N Text came back from five points down in the final 1:06 by forcing important free throws and watching the Llamados throw away several chances of taking what would have been a commanding 3-0 lead.

Ryan Reyes and Jeremy Gray ended a pair of finishes each inside the final 8.2 ticks and the defending champion Texters put the game away to tie the series at 1-all and take a positive vibe going into tomorrow's crucial third game.

"They were up five, and I just told my players to relax," Reyes said. "In a series between two evenly matched teams, it will boil down to the last possession. That's just how it's going to be."

Jason Castro played through pain in both ankles and shot 22 points, 10 of them in the fourth period when the Llamados were busy trying to put the game in the bag.

Donnell Harvey had 29 points, 14 rebounds, four assists, two blocks and a steal that came off Jerrad Bender that proved to be the back-breaker as it led to three free throws. Free throws with 9.2 seconds remaining in 132-99.

Bender grabbed the rebound after two missed free throws by Kelly Williams, but instead of calling a timeout, the youthful import tried to throw an outlet to JV Mercia which Harvey intercepted.

Rolling around to have a look on the game after Jon Dewanee drilled a tight jumper from the keyhole that made it 90-84 with 1:38 left, only for the Llamados offense to sputter when it truly mattered.

From there, the guys who gave the Llamados control for most of the night couldn't buy the basket that would have put the Texters away.

"Bottom line was we shot ourselves in the foot. We had the game and they took the game from us," 8-Mug coach Tim Cone told reporters. "It makes it harder to swallow. The game was stolen from us. We had it under control."

Cone went on to credit all the chances that they fumbled, including one by James Yap who threw a rushed running jumper with the Llamados trailing by just one with still 20 seconds remaining.

"I'm sorry for us that we let that one go," he said. "We devised it for James but the ball came a little late."

The scores
TALK 'N TEXT (54)—Harvey 29, Castro 22, Reyes 12, Pone 12, Williams 8, Ildefonso 6, De Ocampo 6, Ilustre 1, Ramos 1, Dandan 0, Cortez 0.
B-MEG (52)—Dionisio 13, Yap 13, Ubaldo 6, Slaughter 6, Pingris 5, Barroca 4, Ochavo 4, De Guzman 2, Abad 1, Mercado 1, Hontiveros 0.
Quarters: 19-16, 39-41, 73-71, 104-102

JAMES Yap of B-Meg steps as he tries to split the defense of Talk 'N Text's Larry Fonacier (right) and Ronjhill de Ocampo (left).

UST makes V-League return; SSC eyes lead

SAN SEBASTIAN seeks the early lead, even as undefeated University of Santo Tomas makes its much-awaited return to the Shakey's V League ninth season today at the FilOil Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Lady Tiger cubs against the defending Lady Falcons in the first game of a triple-header at 4 p.m. after the Tigresses test the Letran Lady Knights. Perpetual Help and Philsports complete the double-header at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., respectively.

Ateneo de Manila University, which is also making its return to the league after a two-year hiatus, is looking to carry the momentum of its victory over Letran last Tuesday against the Lady Falcons, whose campaign will be led by former league MVP Nene Bautista and Angela Benting.

The Tigresses, who won a record six V-League titles, will be making their first appearance in two years.

Similarity will not be a problem as volleyballers Mary Jean Balse, a former MVP, has played with the core of the UST team for quite some time now. UST has also tapped Thai Kasetsang Suwpirasd as its other reinforcement, joining her against compatriot Hatchree Kaewsang of Letran.

Cont'd P Tapao

JUST jealousy of Nic Jones off-ast drowns last from Arellano's Becky Andrin

FILOIL PRESEASON

Ravena, Eagles pip Tigers

By Cedelf P. Tapao

KIEFER Ravena turned a difficult turnaround jumpshot with a second left to defeated champion Ateneo escaped with a pulsating 65-63 victory over University of Santo Tomas last night in the FilOil Flying V Heroes Preseason Cup.

Struggling for most of the game, the sophomore guard fired a shot over Arlo Formia from 17 feet for the game-winner after the Tigers tied the game through Aljon Mariano at the FilOil Flying V Arena.

"Rookie (Ravena) is a valuable," said Ateneo coach Sandy Arespacochaga of last year's rookie of the Year who finished with six points.

Almost lost in the din of Ravena's heroics was San Beda's 73-63 crowning of University of the Philippines that stretched the Game" unbeaten start to four games on five.

Restored U shooting superb efforts from Ray Parks, Jeff Javillonar and Mark de Guzman, also stayed unscathed after doubling Arellano U, 78-64, earlier.

Parks had 16 points, seven rebounds and five assists to help the Bulldogs improve to 5-0 in this tournament presented by Hotech Hub and Super Polyweed. *With reports from Rannie Raymundo R. Lesaca and Ervin Sinchioco*

The scores
First Game
BEDA (73)—Parks 16, Javillonar 11, De Guzman 10, Mier 8, Andoy 8, Pilapil 7, Pello 5, Pinpin 5, Gadon 2, Calalayan 2, Ignacio 0, Singh 0.
ARELLANO (63)—Arana 14, Javier 10, Calderon 8, Formia 8, Pido 8, Cadiam 5, Cagulat 5, Mikoki 2, Lanot 2, Hernandez 2, Mayuyo 0, Sengco 0, Tuano 0.
Quarters: 16-12, 31-27, 47-43, 73-63.
Second Game
UP (65)—Clarito 17, Salenga 14, Gotladera 12, Dionisio 8, Mendoza 6, Lopez 5, Padilla 3, Manuel 0, Ashley 0, Bautista 0, Ball 0, Alipoyo 0, Albano 0, Agustin 0, Mendoza 0.
Quarters: 17-12, 37-33, 52-43, 65-63.
Third Game
ATENEO (63)—Ravena 17, Borboran 11, Elumba 10, Buenaventura 8, Racal 6, Bautista 5, Pe 2, Lucas, Mariano 0, Pagkalinawan 0.
Quarters: 14-9, 33-31, 50-42, 63-63.

SAN Miguel Beer's Jeremie Pajarillo battles Singapore guard Ben Dulay for possession.

Fazekas rescues SMB; Patriots cool off Heat

By Jane Nievares

NICK Fazekas, known for long rosaries, delivered 12 of his game-high 23 points in the payoff period as the San Miguel Beermen survived the Singapore Slingers, 68-66, last night to keep them on top of the Asean Basketball League.

The 6-foot-11 Hawkeye sparkplug is a 28-6 charge with an assortment of shots and gave his teammates open looks, as San Miguel rallied from a double-digit deficit for the victory.

"We were lackadaisical during the first three quarters and we dug ourselves a hole when we relaxed," said Hawkeye after the Beermen notched a fifth straight win, their 15th in 19 games overall, to keep the top spot with the playoffs in sight.

"It was a wake-up call. We played terrible," said San Miguel first coach Bobby Parks.

Meanwhile, Anthony Johnson earned 19 points and Marcus Miller added 17 as the Manila Philippine Patriots toppled the Saigon Heat, 70-59, in the other game.

The scores
First Game
SAN MIGUEL (68)—Fazekas 23, Barefield 13, Reyes 7, Pajarillo 6, Arnaiz 5, Mallari 5, Rodriguez 3, Yap 3, Fernandez 2, Ildefonso 0, Lassiter 0, Lanete 0, Ramos 0.
SINGAPORE SLINGERS (66)—Johnson 19, Miller 17, Lee 11, Dulay 6, Lim 5, Ong 4, Ng 2, Tan 2, Ho 0, Chua 0, Ang 0.
Quarters: 15-19, 29-36, 49-51, 68-66.
Second Game
PHILIPPINE PATRIOTS (70)—Johnson 19, Miller 17, Lee 11, Dulay 6, Lim 5, Ong 4, Ng 2, Tan 2, Ho 0, Chua 0, Ang 0.
SAIGON HEAT (59)—Wright 19, Thorpe 16, Chu 11, Nwa 8, Sudin 5, Aaron 0.
Quarters: 23-10, 39-19, 52-38, 70-59.

NLEX targets D-League semifinal slot

ON THE CUSP of an automatic semifinal berth, NLEX coach Boyet Fernandez expects no letup from his Road Warriors when they take on Jimar Planterona today in the PBA D-League Foundation Cup.

Unbeaten in five outings, the Road Warriors can put one foot in the semifinals with a victory in the 4 p.m. clash with the Sinners at the Ynares Sports Arena.

"It will be another tough battle," said Fernandez. "So we have to stay in form and hopefully, our defense would step up again."

The Sinners snapped a two-game slump with an 87-80 rout of the Jo Pinnacle Tigers last week, but coach Yong Garcia admitted that his team is still learning to play together.

"Jimar is a very good team and they are improving with every game," said Fernandez, who is wary of Sinners' high-power offense led by guards Jeo Vidal and Allan Mangahas.

Hotel Pacific Pipes seeks to extinguish its own postseason hopes when it tangles an encore with Cagayan Hong Kong Sports in the first game at 2 p.m.

The Steelmasters, toting a 3-2 record, are gunning for a fourth straight victory that will give them a share of second to sixth spots with Cebuana Lhuillier, Blackwater Elite and Big Chill.

Cedelf P. Tapao

Double-eagle lifts Salvador to 2-shot lead

SALVADOR opens defense of his title with a 4-under-par 68.

By Maong R. Castillo

TRECE MARTIRES, Cavite—Klient Salvador recorded the first double-eagle in ICTSI Tour to highlight a six-under-par 66 yesterday for a two-stroke lead over Jay Bayron after the first round of the ICTSI Shorewood Golf Challenge.

Salvador, the defending champion here, conquered the stone-filled, wind-swept layout with a combination of long hitting and assured approaches as he kept this video big game on busy in the P2.5 million event.

It was also Salvador's first double-eagle in an official tournament, one he made after bombing his drive off the 502-yard 15th tee and leaving left with 147 yards, a smooth 8 iron, for his second shot.

"I've had several double-eagles in my career, but all came in practice rounds," Salvador, the 2009 Philippine Open champion, said. "This is special because it came in an official tournament and it gave me the lead."

Bayron stormed six birdies that were with two bogeys in his two shots clear of Michael Ellot and three over Jamie Roy Galon and veterans Sergio Magada, who tallied 71s.

Bayron, the 2008 qualifier native of Davao, is also looking for a first title in local soil since winning the Manila leg in Cebu last year.

Miguel Tabuena, the Splendido leg winner, and Antonio Lascuna, the veteran who has never tasted victory in his now, both signed for 72s to be tied with two others, including newly crowned Philippine Amateur (Grand) champion Ah-Ik Mideo.

Marvin Dumandan, the 2010 champion here, struggled to a 74 like former Philippine Open champions Gaston Gano and Antonio Monasterio.

Franklin Mithoa had just three birdies, four bogeys and no uncharacteristic double bogey on the par-4 18th for a 75.

The leading scores:

66—K. Salvador (3-3-33-33) -4; J. Bayron (2-2-34-35) -4; M. Ellot (3-3-34-31) -3; J. Galon (4-2-32-34) -3; M. Magada (4-3-31-34) -3; A. Fernandez (2-3-35-34) -3; M. Tabuena (4-3-34-32) -3; A. Lascuna (3-3-33-33) -3; A. Mideo (4-3-33-33) -3; R. Tolentino (4-3-33-33) -3; M. Mendoza (3-3-34-33) -3; F. Mithoa (3-3-34-33) -3; J. Roy (3-4-33-33) -3; T. Mendoza (3-3-34-33) -3; J. Macalintal (3-3-34-33) -3; P. Bayron (3-3-33-33) -3; C. Gaston (3-3-34-33) -3; A. Monasterio (3-3-34-33) -3; A. Fernandez (3-3-34-33) -3; J. Lucas (3-3-33-33) -3; A. Mendoza (3-3-33-33) -3.

Trillanes gives PDBF Boracay tilt full support

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SENATOR ANTONIO Trillanes IV has thrown his support to the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation and sought reconciliation between Mayor Ichin Yap of Manila Adrian, to allow the PDBF to stage the Interisland Club Crew Championships in Boracay this weekend.

In his letter signed by his chief of staff, Rolando Asselda, dated April 23, Trillanes noted that holding two dragon boat competitions would "not affect each other as each competition has its respective participants and will be held at a different venue."

The letter also underscored the importance of the regional competition for the PDBF is having if it decides to transfer to a different venue with such a short notice.

The already grave questions for a permit to stage the IOCC and the PDBF has already deepened yesterday for PAGASA that the mayor last week said he's declining the request because it will coincide with the 6th Boracay International Triathlon that will be organized by the Boracay Island Paddlers Association.

Both events are scheduled April 28 to 29 in separate parts of the island.

The IOCC will be used to determine the players to be sent to the World Club Crew Championships in Korea. The Cobra HSBC Dragon Boat Team, composed of the gold medalists and two others in the World Championships in Tampa Bay Florida, last August.

PDBF president Marcia Grandal and executive of the permit should be at least one month prior to the event and thus the committees have started to arrive, including Australia.

"If BIF was the first one to apply for permit," said Grandal. "The dragon boat races at the same time, I don't think there's a problem with that. This is like the Ironet and Globe Ironlag. Their prime team, same date in Boracay. Why impossible for dragon boat race?"

She said Yap was pressured by the Philippine Olympic Committee and the Philippine Sports Commission, which recognize the Philippine Canoe-Kayak Federation, and not the PDBF, as the governing body for the sport.

A cry for stronger competition

BARE EYE

Barish Trinidad

FOR THE second, there had been reported calls for an organized talent discovery drive—the deeper the better—even before the moves led by the national boxing team to land another slot to this year's London Olympics.

No, it was not a case of the new leadership in the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines not searching hard enough for future Olympians.

Explained one of the new leaders behind the moves: "We beg to dispute the observation that there have been no organized tournaments under our watch."

* * *

He continued: "Since 2009, we've regularly held regional and national tournaments all over the archipelago, as will: Bacolod City; Ormoc City; Pasadas, Davao del Norte; Tayabas, Quezon; Puerto Princesa City; Misamis Oriental (twice); Mandaue City; Cebu; Quezon City; Mandaluyong City (twice); and Tagbilaran, Bohol. That's 12 major tournaments in 3 years. Over a thousand aspiring boxers showcased their talents to these tournaments."

The previous sloop leadership definitely pitted in comparisons.

But, as could only be expected, the fall of Charly Suarez, ends hard PH hope in the Asian Olympic qualifier in Kazakhstan, sent experts and fans asking: Where did they go wrong again?

* * *

It definitely was not due to the dearth of materials because, as noted by international matchmaker Jon Sutherland, who does the country continue to produce talent professional world boxing champions whenever our amateurs continue to be stuck in mediocrity?

"I stayed in Bangkok for many years where many amateur fighters came from Thailand, with majority getting started as young as nine or ten years old, and they sparred with anybody on hand," Sutherland said.

Suggested Joseph Burrak, former national contingent matchmaker and keeper of records: "They should not cry, but have an honest-to-goodness evaluation where and why they fell short. With talents from a deep stock, a longer period might be needed to prepare Olympic qualifiers, much more Olympic medalists. They cannot afford to cut corners."

* * *

Meanwhile, five-national amateur boxing body through Pacom, said it doesn't claim a monopoly on good intentions, abuse or motivation:

"Anyone who wishes to give constructive criticism and opinions is welcome."

In the way, in his last communication with the Pacom, boxing pillar Manny Pilad said he had talked to sportsman Ramon Hizon, who voiced his displeasure over the misdistribution of competitions in continental amateur tournaments.

"Make no new challenges, they have run out of competitions," Pilad quoted Hizon-de, godfather of the highly successful Pacific boxing development program in Davao del Norte, as saying.

* * *

All told, the Abap had indeed created very wide ground in its bid to smoke out future Olympians.

But with the plaint from former Congressman Hizon-de, now a full time sportsman, our amateur boxing leaders have no choice but dig deeper, short of going subterranean, in their hunt for future Olympians.

Hizon-de did not have to say it.

Our boxers could have a shot at the Olympic medal again once they are finally found in fit, molded in the mold, manning Olympic ideals.

There should be no in between.

SPORTSWATCH

So, Barbosa, Paragua, Layla enter Luneta Open Chess

THE 2012 Luneta Open Chess Championships kicks off at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the Lapu-Lapu statue (formerly Mabini statue), Rizal Park in Manila with the country's top players headed by Grandmaster Wesley So competing.

Also entered, according to tourney director International Master Chito Garma and Peter Lim are Bills Oliver Barbosa, Mark Paragua and Darwin Layla.

Garma said other participants in the tournament, Swiss system event slated on FI 5, 2012 to the champion include Rey Ronald Dalino, Rolando Salcedo and Emmanuel Cayabyab.

For details, call Garma at 0906-1194862 and Lim 0906-4138000.

TRS-Castrol Kids bid for glory

THE Toyota Racing School (TRS)-Castrol Kids Team hosts the challenge of the Shakotanga Racing Circuit in this Sunday's second leg of the National Karting Series in Rosario.

The trio of Bills Concepcion, Arthur "AJ" Tuason and Peter Jacinto will go all out to deliver for the TRS-Castrol Kids Team powered by Castrol, Bridgestone Standard Insurance, CT Bilingsley, BMC Cebu Dairy, Cebbie, Kyusha and Toyota.

Concepcion aims to bounce back to the Castrol Super Cadet after last problems forced him to retire in the Final Race.

Tuason bids for the sole leadership in the Cadet Super class.

Young riders top superbikes

DI LA CRUZ

YOUNG riders Bardel Bonnello, Adam de la Cruz and Maestro Fernando dominated the return of the 2012 Bridgestone Philippine Superbikes Championships, the 2012 Philippine Scooter Racing Championships and the 2012 Philippine Underbone King Championships recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

The 28-year-old Bonnello, patrolling his top of the line Kawasaki Superbike, ruled the 2012 Bridgestone Philippine Superbikes Championships.

Dela Cruz ruled the 2012 Philippine Scooter Racing Championships while Fernando reigned over the 2012 Philippine Underbone King Championships.

SUMMER BASKETBALL: A perfect venue for kids to spend the summer is to enroll in the Spalding Basketball Camps. The annual camp is run by Hoops School sponsored by Chris Pava, former Philippine Basketball League commissioner and team manager of Formula Shell, and his team of highly skilled coaches.

Chess grassroots: Chiz pledges P5M

SENATOR Francis "Chiz" Escudero will donate P5 million to help sustain the grassroots program of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

Escudero made the pledge during the opening ceremony of the 2012 National age Group and National Junior Chess Championships at the Forest Center in Tagaytay, Batangas.

"The support of Chiz is a welcome development in chess," said NCFP president Prospero "Butch" Pichay.

Meanwhile, Fide Master Florido Fusco beat Senior Fruit Basic of Cagayan De Oro to grab the solo lead in the junior boys division with 3.0 points in six many rounds.

FM Paulo Bersamina and Victor Hugo Medina were also unbeaten but already had their byes.

Pasig Square derby today

THE "SPGB Bulldog Bulldog 8 Bulldog Derby" is set to open in the Pasig Square Bar this today with another elimination round on tap.

Those who will score four wins get a share of the P4 million prize, said National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders executive director Ismael Ilustrisimo.

The last elimination round is set at PM2 on April 29. "Bulldog Bulldog" competitions also will be on May at UBC Coliseum in Tarlac, New Talisay Sports Complex in Cebu and Magsaysay Coliseum in Tagaytay City. For details, call 6466868 and 6466868 (Malong or Kristine).

URCC founder sees tough, thrilling fights Saturday

THE UNIVERSAL Reality Combat Championship celebrates its 10th anniversary with 16 exciting fights topbilled by the "Superfight" between Filipino Fredlen Sarenas and Australian Nicholas Mann on Saturday at the SMX Convention Center.

Dubbed as URCC 2012: 10 — Unstoppable," the island card-bid series event also features Davao champion Angelito Mangayog Alvin Hunters, and former pro-boxing titlist Rey Dollagaza.

The 42-year-old Mangayog, a denizen by profession, and referred to by URCC founder and president Alvin Aguilar as a "very very good fighter," will be up against Will Chope, while Ramirez, the Team Elite ace known for his accurate moves, battles Dollagaza in a pleasingly match.

The event coincides with the birthday of Aguilar, the force behind the establishment of the most popular, and only active MMA promotion based in the country since 2001.

"This is one cool way of celebrating one of the longest running MMA shows in Asia," Aguilar, a Brat degree holder in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, boasted in Saturday's session of the PSA Forum at Shakey's V-Mo Ave.

Greg Amoroso, hosted manager of Gilt 45, announced the Brew's commitment to support the URCC.

Other sponsors are Bad Ball, Chris Sports, VIP Medical Center, Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, Red Box Karaoke, Arnold Clothing and Pepsi. Tickets are available at Ticketworld (8919999) and SM Tickets (470-3333).

PH jr netters battle Kiwis

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE CEBUANA Lhuillier-Philippine Junior Davis Cup team, composed of the country's brightest tennis prospects, plunges into action Wednesday in the round-robin competitions in Bendigo, Australia.

Davis Cup team team practice player Jerome Almadova, Jim Dilmore Jr., and Kyle Magsaysay hope to win at least two of the three matches needed for the top eight of the Asia/Oceania group.

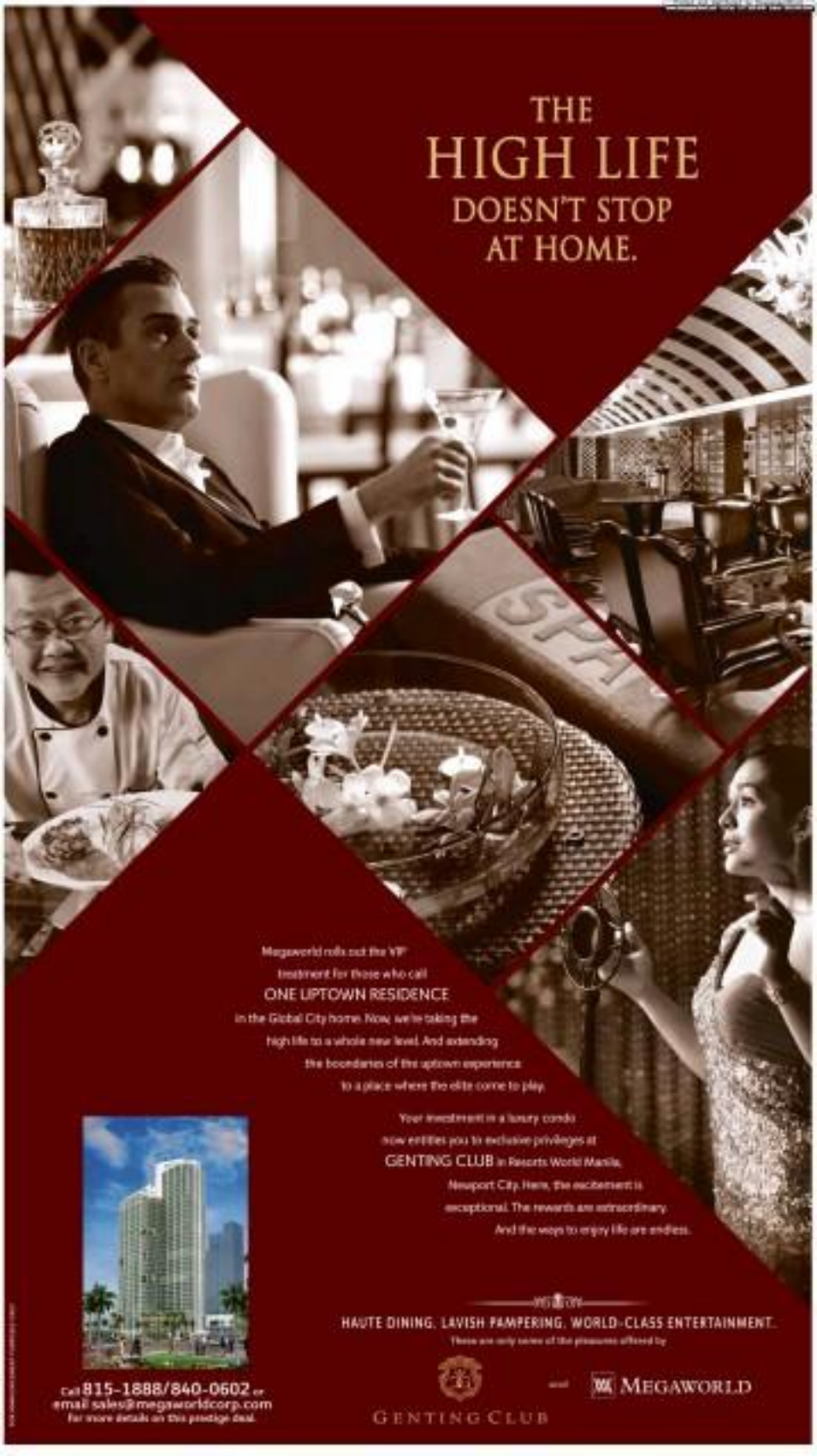
But they will have to put up against host Australia, New Zealand and Kazakhstan to achieve the goal of making the next round, where the country only needs to win one more match to earn a spot in the World Group in September in Spain.

"We have practiced for two days here and the kids are ready to play," said national coach Roland Kraus. "It's very cold here with 5-degree temperature and windy conditions."

He added that the Philippines will go against New Zealand first on Wednesday.

The country last set in make the World Group of the junior version of the Davis Cup.

BY TOP CHOICE
Jo San Lazaro LP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Aplus METRO
Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

DID YOU KNOW

THE NATIONAL Capital Region has the biggest number of policemen in the country with 35,000, according to data from the Philippine National Police as of September 2011. This is 14 percent of the country's 177,333-strong police force.
Rahavi Gonzalez, Inquirer Research

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Marikina cop's heroics reap praise

'Lucky' officer thwarts road robbers while off-duty–for 3rd time

By Nitz Cuñeja

ONCE was enough, twice was too much—but thwarting highway robbers while off-duty for the third time in his life finally earned some accolades for SPO2 Herbert Salazar Baybay.

Officials of the Eastern Police District are all praises for the Marikina City police officer who shot dead one of the two men who declared a holdup on a passenger bus travelling on Edsa on Monday night.

But what made Baybay, 50, stand out was his peculiar experience of being caught in a road robbery thrice while commuting to or from work.

Before Monday's incident, he also shot a robber who threatened his fellow jeepney passengers in Cubao, Quezon City, in 2000. Last year, again he encountered armed robbers on a jeepney and arrested him after a hot chase.

EPD director Chief Supt. Miguel Laurel said "we will initiate a recommendation for (Baybay's) promotion. He risked his life and did what he thought was the right thing to do even if he was off-duty."

"He chose to go above and beyond the call of duty," Laurel said in an Inquirer interview.

Reached on the phone, Baybay said he was heading home on a bus in Laguna when the two armed robbers, who were out of the vehicle on Edsa in Guadalupe, Makati City, at around 11 p.m., ordered the passengers to hand over their wallets, mobile phones, and other valuables.

Sensing that he was a police officer, one of the robbers began badmouthing him. "All of a sudden, a woman stabbed and caught the attention of the robbers. It gave me time to draw my gun," he said.

He said he was able to shoot the robber in the back and then used the robber's body as a shield when his partner started firing at him.

The second robber ordered the driver to pull over, then made his escape. Once he was out of sight, the other passengers also scrambled out of the bus.

Police later identified the slain robber as Carlo Bercelon, a 35-year-old resident of Pasay City. The passengers' valuables, mostly mobile phones, and a .38 caliber pistol were recovered from Bercelon.

Baybay, currently assigned as a radio operator at the Marikina police metrical operations center, wryly described the incident as part of his "good luck"—since he had found himself in similar circumstances twice in the past.

In Cubao, Quezon City, in 2000, he was also off duty when he shot and wounded one of the seven robbers who held up a passenger jeepney he was then riding. He was cobbled in the abdomen during the scuffle.

Last year, he was on his way to work, again on a jeepney, when he saw a robber victimize a female passenger. When the robber got off on Ayala Street in Quezon City, Baybay gave chase and eventually scattered the robber.

The two previous acts of heroism, however, earned him neither a promotion nor a commendation.

Asked what he thought of EPD's plans to finally give him a promotion for Monday's accomplishment, Baybay simply said: "I'd be happy if it happens."

LEG SHOTS
Members of the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team of the Quezon City police practice various shooting positions at Camp Karingal in preparation for any security threat that may rear next week's Labor Day events. YOSHIKO ARAYAMA

Panama 'diplomat' nabbed; Pinay cries date rape in Makati

By DJ Yap

A 55-YEAR-OLD Panamanian national holding a diplomatic passport was taken into police custody after a 19-year-old Filipina woman accused him of raping her during a date in Makati City on Monday night, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the Philippine National Police said yesterday.

Erick Bermejo Sheby was still in CIDG custody as of Wednesday even after Panama's ambassador, Roberto Carlos Moreno, surrendered to his behalf and sought his release, arguing that the suspect was protected by diplomatic immunity.

The head of the CIDG Women and Children Protection Division, Supt. Emma Libarnes, said the CIDG would only release the Panamanian suspect once the Department of Foreign Affairs had verified his identity and given its go-signal.

Libarnes said the alleged rape occurred at around 11 p.m. on April 23 when Sheby invited the girl over to his place after befriending her a few days earlier.

The suspect allegedly made the complainant sniff a marijuana-like substance, rendering her almost unconscious, and then raped her.

The woman reported the crime to the CIDG in the morning of April 25. Police later caught up with the Panamanian national at a McDonald's branch in Makati City and arrested him.

Libarnes said it was not immediately clear what diplomatic position Sheby held or where he was detained, as he only presented a passport with the word "Diplomat" stamped on it.

Bullet in P'que riot may not be from cop

NBI: Ammo came from .38-cal. or 9 mm handgun, not M-16

By Jayvee T. Garcil and DJ Yap

THE BULLET which killed a resident of Sitio-in Compound in Paranaque City may not have come from a gun wielded by a policeman.

This was the finding of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) based on the results of an autopsy conducted on Israel Lorenzo, the lone fatality in Monday's violent clash between residents of Sitio-in Compound in Paranaque City and policemen protesting security in a demolition team.

Lorenzo died of a long gunshot wound on the head, with the bullet entering the person's left head and exiting through the back of his head.

According to NBI medico-legal director Raul Silvio David who conducted the autopsy based on the size of the entrance and exit wounds, the bullet came from either a .38-caliber or 9 mm handgun.

At the same time, he dismissed the possibility that the gunshot wound may have been caused by an M-16 rifle, the weapon issued to members of the Special Weapons and Tactics unit deployed in Sitio-in Compound on Monday.

"The greatest [wound to] not consistent with [that caused by] high-powered firearms. A high-powered firearm would have caused massive tissue damage and [created] an exit wound wound that is small, with a larger exit wound," David pointed out in a phone interview.

He said that in Lorenzo's case, the exit wound was so small, it would've bled a pen.

Reenactment set

He added that the victim was shot by someone standing to his left, less than two feet away. "The entrance wound had no smudging, no sooting, no tattooing, no signs that the shot was effected closer than 24 inches," David said.

The NBI was expected to conduct a reenactment of Monday's events at the crime scene to determine where the bullet that killed Lorenzo came from.

For his part, Interior Secretary Jesse M. Robredo said that one of the residents arrested by the police following Monday's clash had turned positive for gun nitrosa, raising the possibility that the shooter could have come from the ranks of the protestors.

The residents was identified as Victoria.

Robredo added, however, that the investigation was by no means complete and that police were not discounting the angle that the police may have been responsible for Lorenzo's death.

"What [is] close to the Paranaque incident is that it was not the police who started the fight. [Those who] started the violence were those who savored molotov bombs and slaves tools ..." he said.

Accounting to him, he believed that the firing of warning shots was justified as it served as a deterrent to mob blockhaters at that time.

Meanwhile, the Department of Interior (DOI) and Congress will be conducting separate investigations of Monday's clash which left Lorenzo dead and at least 20 other people injured.

Speaking with reporters, Junior secretary Lolo de Lima said the had issued a subpoena duces tecum during the National Prosecution Service (NPS) of the DOI and NBI to gather evidence and determine the events which led to the violence process.

Conflicting versions

"I have ordered NPS-DOI and the NBI to determine ... who should be charged because we're hearing conflicting versions [of] the incident from the police and the other people involved," the said in an interview.

He also took note of the autopsy results released by the NBI which showed that the bullet that killed Lorenzo came from either a 9 mm or .38-cal. pistol.

"So [the bullet possibly] did not come from an M-16 rifle which the [policemen] used ... It would appear that it did not come from them. If that is true, then where did the bullet come from? Who fired the gun?" De Lima asked.

In Congress, Bayan Muna party list Rep. Teodoro Casiño said that he would summon Robredo, Philippine National Police chief Director-General Nicanor Bartolome and Paranaque Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr. to shed light on the incident.

According to Casiño, Robredo should take greater responsibility for the bloody confrontation which led to the death of one of the residents, considering that he was the main conduit between Bernabe and Bartolome in coordinating police actions in the area.

"The Department of the Interior and Local Government could have done more to avert the clash, considering that had been brewing for some time and that there had been similar experiences in the past," he said in a text message. With Maricar Ramos and Cid C. Cabuenagan Jr.

MOURNERS THIS TIME Friends are condemning the deadly April 23 demolition of a flea market in Paranaque City are met with water cannons at the gates of Malacañang on Wednesday

METROBRIEFS

Tricycle driver tagged for child rape

A 49-year-old tricycle driver was arrested on Tuesday night in Mandaluyong City after his 5-year-old neighbor accused him of rape. Senior Insp. Lani Martinez, head of the women and children's section of the Mandaluyong police, identified the rape suspect as Jhonel Ilapa, a resident of Addition Hills Compound in Barangay Addition Hills. He was arrested by barangay watchmen who turned him over to the police after the young girl came home crying on Tuesday night and told her mother of her ordeal. Martinez said that based on the girl's account, the man dragged her into his house where he raped her. He then allowed her to go home. Martinez added that the suspect admitted to drunk or high on drugs during the arrest. He was charged with statutory rape at the Mandaluyong Prosecutor's Office yesterday. Nikko Dizon

Fire destroys P1.5-M property

A BLAZE that razed two houses and left at least 50 families homeless in Barangay Kaligayahan, Novaliches, Quezon City, on Tuesday afternoon has left damages estimated at P1.5 million, fire officials said. The fire, which started at around 2:30 p.m., was declared under control at 3:30 p.m., Fire Chief Supt. Rodolfo Tor said. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. Tor said. No one was injured in the fire. Jeannette I. Andrade

Fake school supplies seized

THE COMMERCIAL Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) chief Pedrito Natividad Jr. has ordered a crackdown on counterfeit school supplies after police seized fake notebooks, pencils and other items in a raid in Valenzuela City on Tuesday. Natividad said the CIDG would coordinate with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to file charges against those found selling fake school supplies. Police said the raid was conducted at the warehouse of Jose Ong Jr. in Barangay Malinta. Police said they found boxes of fake notebooks, pencils, erasers and other items. Ong was arrested for violating Republic Act 8293 or the Intellectual Property Code. Police said the fake items were worth P1 million. Jerry E. Esplanada

Kidnap-for-ransom cops released

ON TARGET
Ronnie Ingilo

THE ARREST of agents of the Batangas Search Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) who were nabbed by fellow cops on Friday for holding a Manila-to-Cavite businessman for ransom has amounted to nothing.

The agents were brought to Batangas Assistant Prosecutor Evelyn Arellano for inquest, but the accused three of them released.

Arellano ordered the three police agents to temporarily remain in custody, but there's a big chance they could be released later.

The agents were charged with kidnapping for ransom, robbery extortion and arbitrary detention.

Kidnapping for ransom is a nonbailable offense.

Arellano did not give reasons for the maneuvers made to investigators, but three of my staff at "Bantong Ma Ray Valle" public service program that the CIDG agents demanded P500,000 from the family of the businessman.

In short, the prosecutor said, stated that the arrest of the CIDG agents did not have any basis.

Sgt. Perez, one of the "Bantong" staff, insisted that Arellano appeared to be "in cahoots" with the erring CIDG agents.

The alleged kidnap for ransom incident was revealed to my public service program.

Some law enforcers are so native that they are capable of implicating in criminal cases police individuals whose integrity standing in the community makes it seem impossible for them to commit the crime imputed to them.

Take the case of Aurelio Almonte and lawyer Percy L. Pe, prominent individuals, who were recently cleared of drug trafficking charges by the Muntinlupa Prosecutor's Office.

The charges were filed against them by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Administration (PDEA) in connection with the raid on a house on Ayala Alabang, an upscale village in Muntinlupa City, where a huge amount of illegal drugs were found.

Some Chinese nationals who rented the house were arrested and charged in court by the PDEA.

But the PDEA also charged Montimela and Pe for alleged conspiracy with the suspected Chinese drug trafficking.

PDEA's Ruth Sayoldi Sindac-lan, who filed the charges, said Montimela and Pe were officers of Fuerte Holdings Inc., a real estate firm which owns the house that was raided.

Montimela and Pe are not. their employees nor incorporators of Fuerte Holdings.

And even if they were, Fuerte Holdings could not be held liable since it did not know what the Chinese tenants were up to.

Before the PDEA implicated Montimela and Pe in the drug trafficking case, they should have first thought how prominent citizens like Montimela and Pe could get involved with Isidro?

Montimela and Pe could file for damages in court against Sindaclan.

But Pe said he would just charge it to experience.

* * *

Three private candidates for the vacated post of administrator of the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) retired police generals Isidro Lacsamana, former general manager of Metro Rail Transit (MRT), and Rey Ortiz, a businessman.

Ortiz supplies construction materials to the LRTA, and considering him for the post is a clear case of conflict of interest.

Lacsamana, a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy, is no stranger to managing train operations.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know who is more qualified for the post.

Taguig rescue team gets new lifeboats, sonar gadget

By Mechanical R. Pinlac

THE TAGUIG Rescue Unit looks forward to fewer tasks that have to be done manually, thanks to the new set of state-of-the-art equipment the city government acquired on Tuesday.

These are inflatable rubber boats (a 12-seater and an eight-seater), 20 wooden flood boats, an ambulance, a fire truck, and two all-terrain amphibious vehicles.

The rescue group also received new units each of hydraulic tools such as spreaders, cutters and jaws-of-life which can be used in earthquake and flood search and rescue, along with a sonar-capable gadget for locating people trapped under the rubble.

Ronald Cadiz, officer-in-charge of the 14-member team, said the equipment turned over on Tuesday cost P26 million and represented the first tranche of the city's total purchase worth P106 million under its disaster preparedness program of Mayor Lani Cayetano.

"We expect more vehicles and tools to arrive later this month, including a cutter-at-sea" by the US Navy Seals which can be mounted through rubble in case if there are persons trapped underneath," Cadiz said.

Except for the wooden flood boats which were made in the Philippines, all the other vehicles and equipment were purchased from the United States, Canada, Italy and Germany.

"Before, we only had four wooden flood boats which were only borrowed from the MMDA (Metropolitan Manila Development Authority) and only one rubber boat borrowed from the Taguig police. We also had only two amphibious vehicles," he said.

Taguig rescuers are on call for emergencies in 28 barangays, including 15 flood-prone villages along Laguna de Bay that due to lack of equipment, they barely coped with the magnitude of the disaster following Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in 2009 or Typhoon "Pabuk" last year, Cadiz recalled.

"We had to do the rescue operations manually. Being trained especially for water rescue missions, we just put our skills to good use," he added.

Often, he added, they had to carry rescue ares on their backs or tie a rope around their waist before pulling them to safety.

"Our rescue operations during Typhoon Pedring, for example, took three days. With these new equipment, I think we can do these days' work in just one day," he said.

HUGOR Lani Cayetano (center) of flood-prone Taguig City gives an interview where a Catholic priest blesses newly purchased rescue equipment at the Taguig City University grounds. Behind them are some of the brand-new boats and vehicles.

UST fencing champ now battles brain disease, needs help

By Santiago R. Alcantara

LOPEZ: Campus swordsman now looking for angels.

AT 23, RIAN Lopez had much to look forward to. He had just been hired by a multinational bank after completing his degree in legal management when he started suffering from bouts of severe headaches, dizziness, vomiting, slurring speech and double vision.

In September, test results showed a malignant tumor in the brain, specifically the cerebellum which is close to the part which controls coordination, speech and other vital functions. He underwent surgery to have the blood clots removed although subsequent tests showed the real cause—an abnormal tangle of blood vessels in the cerebellum.

The time, doctors have advised Rian to undergo an angiogram to help oversee the formation of blood clots as well as to determine which treatment option would be best—an embolization, radiotherapy or another surgery.

However, his latest operation last year and the series of physical therapy sessions which followed have left Rian and his family financially strapped.

"I just wanted my adult life. I'm saving to help my widowed mother and younger brother who just entered college," he said in his letter to the bar exam.

Rian added that he also need to be physically fit, having been a member of the University of Santo Tomas fencing team which went back-to-back championships at UAAP matches with him as one of the lead players.

"My younger sister who used to play hard-to-get with me now calls me to ask me to help save my brain and life," he said.

Rian can be reached at 0917 4402387 or at rianglopez@yahoo.com. Donations can be deposited into the BDO account of his brother, John Christopher Lopez (account number 1700021869).

Annan alarmed at Syria's military operations

UNITED NATIONS—International envoy Kofi Annan told the UN Security Council on Tuesday that the situation in Syria is "bleak" and expressed alarm at reports that government troops are still carrying out military operations in violation of their UN observers are not present.

He expressed particular concern at media reports that government troops stormed the central city of Homs on Monday after UN observers departed, firing machine weapons and killing a significant number of people. Activists said more than 30 people were killed.

"If confirmed, this is totally unacceptable and reprehensible," he said.

Annan advised UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who called the current situation "unacceptable," to immediately implement his six-point peace plan, which would culminate with Syrian-led talks between the government and opposition aimed at reaching a peace settlement.

The Joint UN-Arab League envoy said the speedy deployment of the 300-strong UN observer force authorized by the council on Saturday is "crucial" to verify what is happening on the ground and potentially "change the political dynamics." The observer force also would provide the international community with "incontrovertible" information to increase pressure for a ceasefire by the government and opposition, he said.

Annan briefed the Security Council by video conference hours after his spokesperson, Ahmad Fawzi, told UN Television in Geneva that satellite imagery and other credible reports show that, despite its claims, Syria has failed to withdraw all of its heavy weapons from populated areas as required by the ceasefire deal it accepted.

Fawzi also cited credible reports from "people who approach the observers may be approached by security forces or Syrian troops and harassed or arrested or even worse, perhaps killed."

Annan did not mention either the satellite photos or the harassment and possible killing of people who talked to the observers to the rest of his closed briefing, which was obtained by The Associated Press, but he stressed that "the government cannot cease action to one area to resume it in another."

He told the council that Syrian human rights had informed him in a letter on April 21 of the withdrawal of troops and heavy equipment from populated areas and the handover of responsibility to police for maintaining order.

Annan briefed the council on his talks in Damascus last Saturday with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's government in immediately implement his six-point peace plan, which would culminate with Syrian-led talks between the government and opposition aimed at reaching a peace settlement.

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A Tuareg rebel fighter in the northern Malian town of Gao. Tuareg rebels have joined forces with Islamist militants in a bid to carve out an independent state in the north of the country. AFP

'Berlusconi paid Mafia for protection'

ROME—Former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi paid huge sums of money to the Sicilian Mafia to protect himself and his family from kidnapping in the mid-1970s, Italy's highest appeals court said on Tuesday.

Cosa Nostra's protection "was not free," the court said, adding that the media magnate was a victim of extortion.

"Berlusconi handed over consistent sums of money to the Mafia," the Supreme Court of Cassation said in a 146-page document explaining its decision last month to quash a trial against Marcello Dell'Utri, a Sicilian who worked for Berlusconi in Milan.

In the 1990s, Italian criminal organizations routinely kidnapped wealthy people or their children, often in the wealthy north of the country, and held them for ransom.

The most notorious example was John Paul Getty III, the grandson of oil baron John Paul Getty Senior, who was taken from one end Rome and held for 5 months by the Calabrian mafia in 1973.

Getty's ear was cut off and mailed to an Italian newspaper to push the family into paying a ransom. Vittorio Mangano, a Sicilian mafioso later convicted of murder, lived in Berlusconi's home near Milan in the mid-1970s, allegedly to send the heaven. At the time Berlusconi had two small children with his first wife.

In 2008, Berlusconi said Mangano "behaved perfectly. He lived with us and sometimes played with my children to school."

Mangano died in 2000 of natural causes.

Palermo prosecutor Paolo Borsellino described Mangano as a linegate of Cosa Nostra's bosses (enemies) in northern Italy, in one of the last interviews he gave before being assassinated by a Mafia car bomb in 1992.

Although Berlusconi is mentioned in the court ruling, he was not involved in the case.

The judicial document explains why the high court struck down a conviction against Dell'Utri, who is now a senator for Berlusconi's People of Liberty party.

The court threw out Dell'Utri's conviction by two lower courts for colluding with Cosa Nostra because Palermo magistrates had failed to prove part of the case. A retrial will now be held. Dell'Utri had been sentenced to seven years in prison.

Berlusconi, undermined by sex and corruption scandals, was forced to resign as prime minister last November and replaced by technocrat Mario Monti after Italy was confronted with the risk of plunging into a Greek-style debt crisis.

He says he's facing magistrates have waged a campaign for decades to drive him from power and subvert democracy.

Berlusconi is currently a defendant in five trials, one over charges of paying for sex with an underage prostitute and the others on fraud and corruption charges. Reuters

FOUND: Burmese workers are sewing machines at a garment factory in Rangoon. The lifting of trade sanction could help revive its industries. AP

Jailed ex-Ukraine PM goes on hunger strike

KHARKIV—Former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko has gone on a hunger strike in protest after guards dragged her off her bed and punished her in the stomach, her lawyer said on Tuesday.

Prison authorities deny the accusations.

Tymoshenko, the main opponent of President Viktor Yanukovych, is jailed convicted of abuse of office. She said the beating took place while she was being moved to a state-run hospital last Friday after complaining of back pain.

"They approached my bed, put a shred over me and started dragging me by the feet down from there [the bed]," Tymoshenko said in a statement read to reporters by her lawyer, Andriy Vlasenko.

The 51-year-old was convicted last year to a case that sparked outrage in parts of Ukraine and the West, which saw it as politically motivated.

In the statement, she said she had been attacked by three prison guards. "They twisted my arm, lifted me up and dragged me outside wrapped in a blanket. I thought there were two but there were three," she said.

The prison administration denied using any force against Tymoshenko, the latest his news agency reported.

A state prosecutor denied allegations of beating but said Tymoshenko's nurse last week had refused treatment.

"She packed up and got dressed and then lay on her bed and said 'I am not going anywhere,'" Interfax quoted investigator Prosecutor Dmitry Tymin as saying. "The fear ... all from the prison service to use physical force." Gazeta.ru cited Ukrainian sources as saying Tymoshenko resisted as her prison in the city of Kharkiv on Sunday after she refused to be examined.

TYMOSHENKO

The opposition leader has been on a hunger strike since Friday to draw international attention to the situation in Ukraine, said Vlasenko.

Tymoshenko was sentenced to seven years in prison in October, convicted of abusing her power as prime minister in brokering a 2009 gas deal with Russia.

Yanukovych's government says the deal—an agreement ahead of interests and has saddled Ukraine with an exorbitant price for vital energy supplies. Tymoshenko is now standing is seen tried, charged with one crime, and investigated symbolically—her lawyers say 11 years in prison if found guilty.

She refused to attend the opening hearing this month, saying poor health. The next session is scheduled for April 28. Reuters

UN exec: Burma can become Asian tiger

UNITED NATIONS—The UN secretary-general's special adviser on Burma (Myanmar) says the reasons for such hot cheap, precisely poor nation has the potential to become an Asian tiger if it promotes investment, eases financial restrictions, and finds experts to develop the economy.

Vijay Nambiar gave an upbeat briefing to a group of reporters on Tuesday, ahead of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's visit to Burma this weekend, saying that after more than 20 years of "almost self-inflicted isolation" the country has undergone rapid and dramatic political changes.

"I think the pace as well as the manner of the change has been in some ways extraordinary, and perhaps he to advance of what had been envisaged by the military, which ruled the country for 50 years," he said.

Since last year, the new government headed by President Thein Sein has overseen a number of political reforms and won wide praise for progress toward democratic rule. The government has freed political prisoners, signed truces with rebel groups, and organized April 1

by-elections deemed free and fair that were overwhelmingly won by opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party and ensured the Nobel laureate a seat in parliament after years of repression and house arrest.

"Feeling after more than 20 years, Burma has a consensus, elections and parliament," Nambiar said, which despite flaws never happened before.

He said last year's meeting between Thein Sein and Suu Kyi "has been a major game changer," and he praised the president's statesmanship and "political courage" to implement reforms to restore the April elections despite her opposition to the constitution which was drafted during an era of military rule and gives lawmakers power to the military.

Another "game-changer," Nambiar said, was the decision of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations to choose Burma to chair the organization in 2014.

The recent suspension of US and European Union sanctions, which were imposed in the late 1980s to punish Burma's former iron-fisted military rulers, has also been important, he said. AP

Astronomers find most distant galaxy cluster

JERUSALEM—Astronomers said Wednesday they had found a cluster of galaxies 12.7 billion light-years away from Earth, which they claim is the most distant cluster ever discovered.

Using a powerful telescope based in Hawaii, the team peered back through time to a point just one billion years after the Big Bang, the birth of the universe.

"This shows a galaxy cluster already existed in the early stages of the universe when it was still less than one billion years old," said Dr. Hanno Kurk of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy in Heidelberg, Germany.

The discovery was jointly made by researchers from the state-run Graduate University of Advanced Studies and the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan using the Subaru Telescope in Hawaii.

They found a "protocluster of galaxies", which is reported to help scientists understand the structure of the universe and how galaxies developed.

The study is to be published in the Astrophysical Journal of the United States.

Researchers using Nasa's Hubble Space Telescope have previously announced the discovery of a possible cluster of galaxies around 13.1 billion light-years from Earth, but that has not yet been confirmed, the Japanese researchers said. AFP

Mad cow disease found in California, no human threat seen

WASHINGTON—US authorities reported the country's first case of mad cow disease in six years on Tuesday, but insisted that consumers and global importers that there was no danger of meat from the California dairy cow entering the food chain.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack gave assurances that the finding posed "no risk to the food supply or to human health," a line that seems to have been accepted by major foreign buyers.

Fears of a potential backlash among consumers and big importers of US beef fueled a sell-off in Chicago live cattle futures on Tuesday, with memories still sharp of the first case in 2003 that caused a $3-billion drop in exports. It took until 2006 before those exports fully recovered.

Mexico, Korea and Japan, three of the top markets for overseas US beef sales, will continue imports, although rare major South Korean retailers halted sales of US beef.

Experts said the case was "atypical"—meaning it was a rare occurrence in which a cow contracts the disease spontaneously, rather than through the feed supply.

The risk of transmission generally comes when the brain or spinal tissue of an animal with BSE, or mad cow disease, is consumed by humans or another animal, which did not occur in this case.

Nine discovered in Britain in 1986, the disease has killed more than 190 people and 184,000 cows globally, mainly in Britain and Europe, but strict controls have tempered its spread. The first US case was found in late 2003 in an animal imported from Canada, followed by two cases in 2005 and 2006. Two of those cases were also "atypical."

"I would say this is an extremely isolated, atypical event," said Dr. Bruce Akey professor of veterinary medicine and director of the Animal Health Diagnostic Center at Cornell University, which runs the Mad Cow and Chronic Wasting diseases for New York state and several Northeastern states.

"There is still no evidence at all that BSE is anything but an extremely rare event in the United States, and nothing that poses a threat to the human or animal food chain."

Expert testimonials from cancer researchers would have dealt a fresh blow to companies such as Tyson Foods Inc. and Brazil-based JBS that are still smarting from the "pink slime" furor.

Former reader Lette Blair, a unit of Lone Shopping Co., said it had suspended sales due to what it said was "excessive concerns," as did Home Plus, a unit of Britain's Tesco PLC.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has begun notifying authorities at the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) as well as US trading partners, said John Clifford, the USDA's chief veterinary officer.

"The systems and safeguards in place to prevent animal and human health risks from BSE planned to identify this case quickly and will ensure that it presents no risk to the food supply or to human health," Vilsack said in a statement.

The USDA is still tracing the ranch life of the infected animal, and the carcass of the cow is in incineration, the agency said. Reuters

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

It's Romney vs Obama in Nov polls

OBAMA

ROMNEY

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire—Republican Mitt Romney launched his general election campaign against President Barack Obama after sweeping five primaries on Tuesday, condemning the president for false promises and weak leadership and declaring "a better America begins tonight."

Romney claimed victory in the Republican nominating race and outlined the themes of his campaign against Obama, asking Americans if they were better off under his administration and accusing the president of failing to deliver on his campaign pledges of hope and change.

"What do we have to show for three-and-a-half years of President Obama?" Romney asked during a speech in New Hampshire.

"It's easier to make ends meet? It is easier to sell your home or buy a new one? Have you saved what you needed for retirement? Are you making more in your job?"

Romney, a former head of a private equity firm who has put the struggling economy as the center of his campaign, slammed Obama's economic policies and said they had led to "hope and despair, disillusionment" for the president's would offer a better choice to those who are struggling. "People are hurting in America, and we know that something is wrong, terribly wrong with the direction of the country," he said.

"This election is about the kind of America we will live in," he said. "To the America I see, character and choices matter. And education, hard work, and living within our means are valued and rewarded."

Romney's speech, focused almost exclusively on the economy, came after he rolled to easy double-digit victories in five Northeastern states—Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island—with a combined 232 delegates.

The wins moved Romney who entered this night with 691 delegates, closer to the 1,144 he needs to formally clinch the nomination, a milestone that is still weeks away.

Romney effectively ended the Republican race on April 10 when his top rival, Rick Santorum, suspended his White House campaign, but the speech in the general election battleground state of New Hampshire was the first time he had claimed the mantle of presumptive nominee.

More 43 primaries and caucuses, many long days and more than a few long nights, remain after he rolled to easy victories in Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island, with a combined 232 delegates.

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"I'm grateful for Tuesday could be the beginning of the end for another extending rival, former House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich. We had said he would reassess his candidacy if he did not win the primary in Delaware, where he had campaigned heavily in recent weeks.

Romney beat Gingrich by more than 30 percentage points in Delaware and won all of the state's 17 delegates. But Gingrich did not concede during a speech in South Carolina after the vote. He said he planned to continue his campaign in the state this week. Reuters

Pakistan test fires nuke-capable missile

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan successfully launched an upgraded ballistic missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead on Wednesday, days after its neighbor and archenemy India conducted its own missile test, the Pakistani military said.

The Hatf-IV Shaheen-1A missile was launched into the sea, the military said in a written statement.

It was described as an intermediate-range missile having a longer range than its predecessor, the Shaheen 1, which is believed to fly up to 750 kilometers.

"The improved version of Shaheen-1A will further consolidate and strengthen Pakistan's deterrence abilities," said Lt. Gen. Khalid Kidwai, who oversaw the launch and is responsible for the country's nuclear program.

India announced last Thursday that it had successfully test-launched a new nuclear-capable, long-range missile, the Agni-V, which has a range of 5,000 kilometers.

Pakistan and India have fought three major wars since they achieved independence from the British empire in 1947, but the two have engaged in warm-up over the last year, especially with respect to trade, but the two still consider each other enemies and regularly conduct tests of weapons systems to display their military prowess. AP

A MILITARY vehicle carrying what appears to be a new missile is seen on a street at the gymnasium on the eve of the 80th anniversary of the founding of the North Korean Army in Pyongyang on Tuesday. AP

N. Korea boasts it has 'powerful weapons'

PYONGYANG—North Korea is armed with "powerful modern weapons" capable of defeating the United States, a top military chief in Pyongyang said on Wednesday amid increased speculation abroad about the nation's missile arsenal and nuclear ambitions.

Vice Marshal Ri Yong-ho emphasized the importance of strengthening the military to defend North Korea against threats to save from the United States and South Korea. He called his nation a nuclear and military power and praised new leader Kim Jong-un, believed to be in his late 20s, as a "military strategist" who has been giving the army guidance for years.

"The Korean People's Army is armed with powerful modern weapons ... that can destroy the [US] imperialists at a single blow," he told party and military officials, using familiar derogatory terms for the country's enemies.

The meeting, attended by Kim Jong-un, was held to mark the 80th anniversary of the army's founding. The Associated Press was among foreign news agencies listed in Pyongyang allowed to observe the closed meeting at the April 25 House of Culture.

Ri, who is chief of the army's general staff, did not provide further details about North Korea's weapons, but his call to arms comes as the United States, Britain and others warn the nation against a provocation that would further heighten tensions.

North Korea is believed to have some nuclear weapons but not the technology to put them on long-range missiles.

Analysts this month, North Korea launched a long-range rocket in taboo on officials called a failed attempt to put a satellite into space. The launch was described internationally as a banned test of missile technology that also could be used to send an intercontinental ballistic missile topped with a nuclear warhead.

The rocket broke into pieces shortly after liftoff. But the UN Security Council later condemned the launch as a violation of resolutions prohibiting North Korea from engaging in nuclear and missile activity, and Washington halted a plan to provide Pyongyang with much-needed food aid in exchange for a moratorium on nuclear and missile tests.

On Monday, North Korea reopened to US and South Koreans an exhibition with threats to sever South Korean targets "to ashes" within minutes in a particularly dramatic warning that followed days of protest rallies held nationwide.

There also are worries that North Korea may conduct a nuclear test, as it did after rocket launches in 2006 and 2009. South Korean intelligence officials say recent satellite images show the North has been digging a tunnel in what could be preparation for a third atomic test.

US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta warned North Korea not to engage in any further provocation.

He told reporters in Israel that he had no knowledge of any specific actions being planned by North Korea but said he would "strongly urge" the North to avoid any destabilizing acts. AP

2 more US Secret Service agents quit over scandal

WASHINGTON—Two more US Secret Service agents are resigning over a Colombia prostitution scandal, the agency said on Tuesday, as it sought to show a chapter in its worst case of alleged misconduct in decades.

The Secret Service announced the fates of all of the remaining employees under investigation. President Barack Obama defended them tasked with protecting him, saying a "couple of knucklehead" should not discredit the entire agency.

"What these guys were thinking, I don't know. That's why they're not there anymore," Obama said nearly two weeks after the incident in Colombia that embarrassed the US government and raised questions about the agency's insular culture.

US security aces assigned to guard Obama are also alleged to have engaged in a night of partying and carousing that ended up with them bringing prostitutes to their hotels just before the president's arrival for a summit in the Colombian coastal city of Cartagena this month.

The Secret Service said two more agents were quitting over the scandal in addition to the five who have already left their jobs. Another agent has had his security clearance revoked and will be reassigned if that is made permanent.

Three others have been cleared of "serious misconduct."

Tuesday's announcement accounted for the 11 Secret Service members who have been under investigation, but 12 US military personnel also face possible discipline in a separate probe.

The men are alleged to have taken as many as 21 prostitutes back to their hotels in Cartagena on the night of April 11-12. Reuters

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano
BUSINESS

KINGATE SAFETY EYEWEAR

Gas find boosts stocks to record high

Positive US earnings provide extra boost to index

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LOCAL stock index soared to an all-time high on Wednesday, closing past 5,200 on the back of upbeat sentiment in Wall Street and excitement from the latest gas exploration results in Recto Bank.

The main share Philippine Stock Exchange index rallied by 35.34 points or 0.69 percent to finish at 5,204.84. The index also marked a new intra-day peak of 5,228.54.

"The possibility of natural gas findings in Recto Bank means this may solve the power crisis in the country," said Manny Gaa, chief strategist at Atram Equities. "This created confidence in the market."

After this breakout, Gaa said the new immediate resistance for the index would be at 5,229.

"There's positive sentiment for most of the Asian region," said ING Securities deputy chief Manny Lubiano.

The regional markets also took their cue from the already-watched Dow Jones industrial average, which advanced by 74.39 points or 0.58 percent, to close at 13,001.36 overnight.

Wall Street sentiment was upbeat on the earnings of first quarter US corporate earnings.

"Eyes will be watching the outcome of the US Federal Open Market Committee decision on key policies. The expectation is that the status quo will be maintained, thus Fundy will continue to flow into Southeast Asia," Lubiano said.

INDICATORS

PESO-DOLLAR RATE
April 25, 2012
42.675

STOCK MARKET
April 25, 2012
35.24
PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

March budget deficit hounded anew by weak state spending

THE GOVERNMENT posted a budget deficit of P28.62 billion in March as the surge in expenses outpaced the growth in revenues, according to the Bureau of the Treasury.

The brought the deficit for the first quarter to P93.01 billion, which was about 47 percent of the P82.81 billion that the government intended to spend on top of national budget for the period.

Also, the three-month deficit was 29 percent more than the P206.2 billion recorded in the same period of 2011.

January-March expenses reached only P594.88 billion, which was P40.7 billion short of the program but 5.27 percent higher year-on-year.

Victoria Serafica, the Singapore-based economist of Deutsche Bank, lamented that the government's spending targets are "chronically being missed."

"This points to inherent institutional problems getting government spending on the ground," he told Reuters. "And it makes all the difference for an economy that is trying to build infrastructure and expand social programs."

"So the budget numbers are usually laid down wrapped in an apparently pleasing wrapper of fiscal consolidation," he added. "While the gaps could benefit purely on the deficit differentials, the current situation subtracts from intended government boost to growth."

"Above all, it darkens the medium- to-long-term growth potential and prospects, the most worrying aspect in my books," Serafica explained.

Three-month revenues reached a total of P360.97 billion, which was P5.2 billion more than the goal and 11.7 percent higher than last year's.

In March alone, expenditures reached P144.85 billion, 15 percent higher than the P125.28 billion spent in the same month last year.

Revenues reached P115.43 billion, an increase of 7.7 percent from P107.13 billion.

The March fiscal performance "affirms our strategy of consolidating our fiscal position while at the same time investing heavily in key social and economic services," Finance Secretary Cesar V. Purisima said in a statement.

He said that, netting out the interest payment from expenses, the national government would in run on a primary surplus.

MARCH 10

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Jalandoni group infuses ₱800M into Ongpin-led bank

By Doris C. Dumlao

ONGPIN-LED Philippine Bank of Communications is getting a fresh equity infusion of about ₱800 million from the Jalandoni group, a sugar-based family based in Negros.

The Jalandoni group will buy new shares in the bank at ₱27.88 each, the same price at which the group of former Trade Minister Roberto V. Ongpin acquired a controlling stake in the bank, based on a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

The disclosure said PBCom's board had approved the terms and conditions of deposit for future subscription from the Jalandoni group in the amount of ₱800 million.

The family hails from the sugar-producing province of Negros Occidental.

"The amount will be used to subscribe to common shares of the bank as soon as the increase in authorized capital of the Bank is approved by the regulators," the disclosure said.

The subscription price was pegged at ₱27.88 plus interest of 6 percent per year reckoned from the start of 2012 to the date of the actual deposit to maybe, the disclosure said.

Ongpin-led ISM Communications earlier took over a 97 percent stake in PBCom for about ₱4.7 billion.

PBCom has a banking franchise with a 66-branch network and a client base composed mainly of middle-income Chinese.

It is the 22nd largest among the country's 38 commercial banks in terms of resources, with assets of around ₱45.45 billion as of end 2011.

It has a capital base of ₱6.76 billion, deposit base of ₱27.8 billion and a lending book of about ₱8.3 billion.

Ongpin, the lead partner of British fund Advisors, which has been investing heavily in the Philippines over the last few years, is also part of the group that holds the controlling stake in conglomerate San Miguel Corp.

The Ongpin group also has interests in real estate development (Alphaland Corp.), mining and oil exploration (Arak Big Wedge Co. Inc.), information technology and gaming (ProBench Corp.) and oil refinery (Petron Corp.).

Family pays P27.88 per PBCom share

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

CURRENCIES

PLDT opens data center

By Paolo G. Montecillo

DOMINANT network Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) is bolstering its product line for corporate clients in Luzon as it supports the growth of businesses by helping them modernize and automate their operations.

In a statement on Wednesday, PLDT said it had opened its second "METRO" data center in Subic Bay Freeport and in Mimosa, Pampanga.

The company said the move would benefit "businesses based in Metro Manila and Northern Luzon in terms of providing cost-saving data recovery and secure data and information management."

"PLDT Subic Vitro data center provides companies a very secure location to host all their data and information which is supported by accredited ICT [infrastructure]," said Pete Alberto, PLDT executive vice-president and head of the company's enterprise and international carrier business.

"Through PLDT's advanced telecommunications infrastructure, the data center is able to provide clients real IT infrastructure solutions and multiple options for organizations bandwidth requirements more cost-effectively," Alberto said.

PLDT's first data center facility was put up in Pasay City. It has received numerous accreditations in recognition of its reliable and robust services.

The new facility in Subic would offer companies full management and telecommunications services essential in business such as co-location, server hosting, disaster recovery, data security and network management.

Housed in PLDT's Subic ICT facilities, the new data center will employ top of the line systems for power supply, security, cooling, fire protection and monitoring to ensure that equipment runs smoothly. The new facility will also be maintained by PLDT's in-house staff of engineers.

"The METRO data center in Subic assures enabling security and reliability for the ICT demands of our clients, coupled with PLDT's unparalleled robust domestic fiber network in the country as well as robust redundant network," said Joey Hernandez, head of PLDT's Alpha Enterprise division.

Belle Q1 income rose by 4.9% to ₱52.47M

LEISURE estate unit gaming firm Belle Corp. grew in first quarter net profit by 4.9 percent to ₱52.47 million on higher interest income, foreign-exchange gains and equity income earnings of associates.

In a regulatory filing, Belle reported that revenues for the first quarter dropped by 13.1 percent to ₱496.94 million due to the decline in the sale of real estate and club shares.

"The company has been downsizing significant resources to development activities commenced with Belle Grande Manila Bay its integrated resort project located in Pasthaque City, which is targeted for its grand opening during 2013," Belle explained in its quarterly report.

On the other hand, Belle's first quarter results were boosted by the increase in interest income from P28.9 million from only ₱700,000 year-on-year, in view of the increase in cash levels in anticipation of requirements for the Belle Grande hotel-casino project.

This cash level included a ₱68 million deposit required to be maintained under the license issued by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

The significant increase in 2012 deposit levels was funded mainly by new long-term loan drawdowns amounting to ₱3.2 billion, which funded the escrow deposit required by Pagcor and the last installment of its stock rights offering.

Belle's share in the net earnings from associated companies also increased by 2 percent to ₱38.1 million during the first quarter from a year ago, due mainly from an 18 percent-owned affiliate Pacific Online Systems Corp.

A foreign exchange gain of ₱20.9 million was also posted in the first quarter, 81 percent higher than the forex windfall in the same period last year.

The gains were mostly derived from its foreign-currency-denominated debt paper due 2014 worth $222 million.

Belle posted a positive consolidated retained earnings of ₱990.7 million as of end March.

Doris C. Dumlao

Air travel soars on back of budget airlines' growth

LOW COST carriers (LCC) were behind nearly all of the growth in the Philippine air travel sector over the last five years, Cebu-based budget carrier Cebu Pacific said on Thursday.

At the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Summit held in Davao last week, Cebu Pacific vice-president for marketing and distribution Candice Iyog said 96 percent of the industry's growth could be traced to the expansion of low-cost carriers.

Full service carriers like Philippine Airlines (PAL), meanwhile, contributed just 4 percent to the sector's growth.

"That is mainly driven by the low fares offered by LCCs such as Cebu Pacific. By unbundling services such as baggage and meals, customers are given the choice to buy only the services they want to pay for," Iyog said.

"Full service or legacy airlines continue to have their key economic niche to serve, something new air travellers have rejected. Cebu Pacific continues to remain focused on stimulating travel demand in the Philippines. We're now this country market no-operate," she said.

Despite rising fuel costs, Iyog claimed that airline tickets are now 30 percent cheaper, on average, than they were 10 years ago.

Citing government data, she said one out of every two domestic passengers flew on LCCs in 2006. In 2011, LCCs dominated the domestic market with 76 percent market share, or three out of every four domestic passengers.

She said the effect of LCCs on airline routes can be seen in destinations like Hong Kong, which Cebu Pacific first flew to in 2005. Back then, less than two million passengers were flying between the Philippines and the Chinese special administrative region.

Yet very last, 2.75 million passengers were recorded for all airlines, indicating a growth rate of 38 percent. Paolo G. Montecillo

ALI completes bond issue

ayala Land Inc. has completed a P15 billion retail bond issue and will list those bonds on the local fixed-income exchange on Friday.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, ALI said it had received approval from the Philippine Dealing and Exchange Corp. to list those fixed-rate callable bonds due 2019 and 2022, effective April 27.

The bonds represent ALI's largest fund-raising to the capital market so far.

The seven-year bonds were priced to yield 5.625 percent yearly, while the 10-year bonds will earn 6 percent a year.

BPI Capital Corp. and Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd. are joint lead managers and underwriters, while RBC Capital and Investment Corp. and First Metro Investment Corp. are co-lead managers and underwriters for the bond issue. — Doris C. Bonifacio

Sale of Asiatrust assets OKd

By Doris C. Dumlao

SHAREHOLDERS of thrift bank Asiatrust Development Bank approved on Wednesday the sale of its banking operations to Asian United Bank and the transformation of the remaining company into a holding firm.

In a statement, Asiatrust said its shareholders had approved and ratified the agreement with AUB, which will acquire the former's banking assets and liabilities, excluding the trust business.

Asiatrust said it would now await clearly with AUB to obtain final regulatory approvals so they could complete the transaction within the first half of 2012.

The 20 branches of Asiatrust, most of which are in Metro Manila, will become AUB branches upon completion of the deal.

"AUB is a strong bank that has always emphasized customer service, even as it has accelerated its expansion in the past few years. We are confident AUB will be able to match the high quality of service we have delivered to our customers," Asiatrust president and chief executive officer Dionisio Dy said.

In the same special stockholders' meeting, Asiatrust approved the change in its corporate name to "AsiaCenturia Holdings Corp."

Banking sources privy to the deal said this was announced in a way that AUB would be buying the assets rather than shares. This will ensure that Asiatrust's shareholders would still "be left with something" after AUB's takeover.

How to love a bank

LONG lagging behind in commercial banking, as other banks have grown to both size and reach in the past 20 years, the once mighty UCPB is looking up to overnight.

That is the United Coconut Planters Bank, which in the 1980s was among the four biggest banks in the country although its banking through the years has gone down to a mere niche bank. The good news is that the bank is projecting profitability should be good news to the current industry.

Some groups took a swipe at the Aquino (Part II) administration for appointing veteran banker Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala's (JAZA) Kilayko, who has been a finance man all his working life, as president and CEO of UCPB.

It seemed that the attacks against Kilayko were unanimous in put our leader Benigno Simeon (aka BS) on the spot, either then as an affront to the qualifications of Kilayko as a banker. Well, the bank is profitable again, and Kilayko as its CEO would only be expected to have played a big role in its return to profitability.

But therein lies the biggest problem of UCPB as a business proposition—as a controversial bank that many would frown on against other banks devoid of politics in their business affairs. Yet no large bank, UCPB has been embroiled in politics due perhaps to its ownership structure. It is still ostensibly by the government, although its ownership is shared by the government through the PCGG and a number of cronies' business.

For the past 25 years or so, therefore, the management and the board of the bank have been with the entry of a new administration in the Palace. Not only that, they were changed in the middle of an administration—several times.

Frequent changes in the board and management of the bank meant it could hardly be consistent in its policies.

Worst of all was the absence of accountability among the previous top management and board members. The bank, for instance, was said to have thrown billions of pesos in loans to shaky real estate companies several years ago. By the time the damage was evident, the once responsible bankers from those years no longer could be found.

If to set up or run a bank. Nobody time would want to invest in it. UCPB could not raise capital through the financial market. Other commercial banks—all competitors of UCPB—had issued instruments as Tier1 or term bonds to raise capital. UCPB just stayed in the sidelines.

* * *

NOW, UCPB has a new CEO in Kilayko. Some groups accuse him of having connections with Manuel "Manolo" Cojuangco, Jr., chair of San Miguel Corp., the majority owner of another bank, Bank of Commerce. If Kilayko used to be vice chair of BOC. Therefore, he is a Danding boy.

From what I gathered, Kilayko became an executive of BOC much later in his career as a banker. He actually did the most of banks and financial institutions, both local and foreign, such as the now defunct PCIBank, investment house Merrill Lynch, US-based Bankers Trust Co. and Citibank, both of America and a leading firm of the Ayala group. He was once involved with financial institutions in Hong Kong and Singapore.

He started to be noticed in the banking business when he became the EVP of government-owned Land of the Philippines. It was during the high growth years of the bank, when its president was former Education Secretary Jesli Lapus. Land Bank is now the fourth largest bank in the Philippines.

Let us say that the man has been successful in Diamond circles here and abroad. Kilayko even worked for a finance company based in the Visayas, which was partly owned by the Catholic Church, enhancing salary boosts sometimes.

He became vice chair of BOC only when the bank, under its new owner San Miguel, which acquired it from the group of Antonio "Tantoy" Cojuangco, embarked to create innovations from other banks.

In BOC, Kilayko was head of the executive committee, which weighed all the risks that the banks took on in lending and investments. So far as I know, BOC is doing well. In fact, the second biggest financial conglomerate in Malaysia, which is 30 times the size of our biggest bank here, recently bought into BOC.

To me, with Kilayko's sterling record as a banker, our leader BS choose well in making him the head of UCPB. The bank simply must try to become profitable. Under him, UCPB is looking up once again.

* * *

MITTERRAND: the financial health of UCPB must be isolated from the politicians over the installation of pro-current low funds, at the CEB, the Coconut Industry Investment Fund. Why? Because a well-run UCPB is good for the current industry, including the farmers for whose sake some groups are claiming to make a lot of political noise.

UCPB manages the money that is used for programs and projects for coconut farmers, including income and dividends from investments that were made out of the fund.

Perhaps it may take more than our lifetime to sort out the politics revolving around the CEB. Just exactly how we can make those billions of pesos to benefit coconut farmers, more than a billion gallons of coco before we could arrive at any semblance of agreement.

For now, one thing to clear on what should be done with the fund—it should be invested well.

From the loans given by the UCPB-CEF Foundation to recount farmers need be managed carefully. And we all know that giving out loans is the expertise of banks like UCPB.

Before all the issues around the CEF can be resolved, we better pray for a healthy UCPB. If the bank collapses, it takes down with it the interest of the coconut farmers.

I thought our banker BS made a good decision in reinvesting UCPB with a professional-operated banker, given the limitation that he faced in filling up positions in the government.

The guy in UCPB is not even that great. Well, not as lucrative as those in other banks, believe me!

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B4 CLASSIFIEDS

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

LOAN & MORTGAGE

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

SEA LOAN

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

SEA LOAN

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FEMALE

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

NOTICE OF LOSS

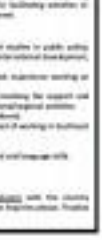
PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

CLASSIFIEDS

More Classifieds on page...

Bureau of Corrections B14



Country MANAGER

Chemonics International, a Washington D.C. - based international development firm, seeks experienced **Country Manager** for the upcoming USAID-funded Pilot Area project. Based in Bangkok, the program goal is to increase investment in clean energy in Asian developing countries as a key part of Lower-Emission efforts to promote low carbon economic development. The program is looking for country managers in the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Indonesia and India. The program will maintain comprehensive green energy investment portfolios, develop daily market SWOT assessments and focus on supporting the construction and sustainability of the ASEAN Financial Advisory Network (FAN) initiated under the ASEAN-USAID program. We are looking for experienced individuals who have a passion for making a difference on the issue of climate around the world.

Responsibilities:

Country managers are technical experts, valued leaders, strong managers, skilled in the administration of large (preferably regional) projects, and have donor compliance experience. Under Chemonics, country Manager shall be responsible for supporting and maintaining overall operations within a country and for facilitating activities in country in coordination with the COP and other key personnel.

Qualifications:

- Degree in environmental or climate change-related studies in public policy, economics, law, science, international cooperation or other relevant field required; or a relevant field preferred
- Minimum 7 years of professional experience required; experience working in an international development context
- Proven success working in complex environments involving the support and coordination of multiple organizations and multi-national/regional activities
- Previous work in the clean energy sector strongly preferred
- Familiarity with the portfolio, issues and challenges of working in Southeast Asia
- Demonstrated leadership, integrity, and creativity
- Strong written and verbal communication skills and language skills
- Fluency in English required

Applications:

Send electronic applications to chemonics.phil@gmail.com with the country specified in the subject line by **May 1, 2012**. No telephone inquiries please. Finalists will be contacted.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

JUVELYN PANTALEON BALARAD
a.k.a. Catherine Aguirre

The above-mentioned person has a standing Warrant of Arrest issued to her by the Regional Trial Court, Branch 19, Digos City in its order dated September 24, 2010.

Any information about her and her whereabouts can be relayed at 09088647086 or 09331738922.

(09) April 26, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DOLE-NCR Building, 901 Manlayan St.,
Makati, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office applications for Alien Employment Permits:

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Nationality	Position
QUADRALLA TRADING CORP. 10 Apolo St., Congressional Ave., Project 6, Quezon City	Jagbirsar Rai Indian	Collection Officer
HEWLETT ASIA PACIFIC SERVICE (EMPIRE) 10/F 6 Raffles Link, Raffles Ave., Makati City	Takeshi Nakayashiro Japanese	Language Translator
GEN MANAGEMENT AND CONSULTING SERVICES, INC. Str. 17 Lot 23 Barangka St., Lamudo 1 Mabalang, Mandaluyong City	James Bennett Clarke Australian	General Manager and Consultant
DIANA WOTTOLI, JR'S 6/F Commonwealth Bldg., 425 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Manila	Francisco Hernandez Italian	Repair Consultant
DIANA WOTTOLI, JR'S 6/F Commonwealth Bldg., 425 Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Manila	Ko Yan Chinese	Project Manager
HR SKILLINC. 2nd Level 101, Market Area, Alabang Makati	James John Hilton Australian	Consultant of Skillinc
ASIA ECOMMERCE NETWORK SOLUTIONS INC. 2/F Victoria Court 1 Bldg., 3 Victoria Court, Makati City	Wan Huang Chinese	Merchant Account Risk Manager
SOLOMON LINK TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 2/F Wings Court 1 Bldg., 3 Victoria Court, Makati City	Yeung Siu Chinese	Marketing Staff
SOLOMON LINK TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 2/F Wings Court 1 Bldg., 3 Victoria Court, Makati City	Pun Lee Chinese	Marketing Staff
WEISS ELEVATOR SHARED SERVICES (PHILIPPINES) INC. Bldg. H, 2/F Residential Technology, Quezon City	Jon-Allan Roberts American	Senior Vice President and Managing Director
SOLOMONLINK TECHNOLOGIES, INC. 2/F Wings Court 1 Bldg., 3 Victoria Court, Makati City	Wei Chen Chinese	Marketing Staff
SUPRA DATA FACILITIES, INCORPORATED Unit 10-1 Tektite Twr. II, Tektite City, Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Robert Alexander Dykes Australian	President / Chairman of the Board
GREGG CORP INCORPORATED Suite 1, Lot 1 Phase 8 Bonifacio Global Exchange Building, BTC Bonifacio, Makati City	Andy Wakelin-Goldstein Australian	Senior Customer Relationship Manager
SAHAKARI MERCHANDISING CORP. #37 Mandarin St., Zeta II, Bel-Air, Makati City	Subhender Singh Bhatt Indian	Purchasing Officer
GREGG CORP INCORPORATED Suite 1, Lot 1 Phase 8 Bonifacio Global Exchange Building, BTC Bonifacio, Makati City	Ann Marie Jones Ambal British	Senior Customer Relationship Manager
SOURCERIZ INT'L, INC. Unit 2707 Discovery Centre, 25 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City	Samuel David Pigott American	Chief Operating Officer
LAMUNTO, MARIA RUBIO PAUL, ING. Rosana San Buenaso Park II, Rodriguez de Arco, San Mateo Rizal	Samuel Gaudet French	Technical Service Manager
GLOBAL BYTES MEDIA (SEA) LTD. CORP. Unit 3306, 33/F The Gallery Bldg., Ayala Avenue cor. Rada St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Stephen Jeffrey British	Technical Consultant Branding and Editorial Consultant
OCEAN AND FOUNTAIN PROPERTIES, INC. The Riverbank Active Commercial Complex, Ortigas Ave. Ext., Cainta, Rizal	Manuel Jin Chinese	Job Support System Technician
BUSINESS PROCESS SOLUTIONS (SEA) LTD. 14/F Ayala Triangle, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Mary Wayne Northern Lowell	Customer Support Associate
KEY VENTURES, INC. 27 West Avenue Bel-Air Makati Condo Fort Commercial Center, Taguig City	Huifang Tang Chinese	Purchasing Assistant
SPOTTSWOOD CENTRO GLOBAL, INC. Unit 1 Ground Floor, Cityland 10 Tower 2, 6815 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Jaeyoung Ahn Korean	Operation Manager

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Nationality	Position
SHANGRI-LA SECURITY AGENCY CORP. 30 Annex St., Forbes, Makati City	Mohammad Asif Bamik Pakistani	Marketing Manager
HYDRO CONSULTING MIDDLE EAST LIMITED Level 3, Tower 2, Enterprise Center, 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Dolores Clara Mendiola Filipina	Design Manager
ETESCO ASIA, INC. 26/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Deep Hari Rao Indonesian	Geotechnical Technical Support Representative
HYDRO CONSULTING MIDDLE EAST LIMITED Level 3, Tower 2, The Enterprise Centre, 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ryan Michael Scott Australian	Design Manager
ASIAN PEOPLESOURCE, INC. Anglo Peoplesupport Center, Asphalt cor. Oil Pluvial Ave., Makati City	Annamarie Marie Aubrie Italian	Executive, Operations (Italian Language)
ASIAN SERVICES PHILIPPINES, INC. Rockwell Business Center, Ortigas Ave., Pasig City	Xiaoyan Jiang Chinese	Executive, Operations (Mandarin Language)
BIOGENERATIC, INC. 6/F-10 Asian Corporate Ctr., 6 Quezon Ave., San Miguel, Pasig City	Cheol Woo Jeong Korean	General Manager
ETESCO ASIA, INC. 26/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Reuben Hitosh Lobaton Indian	Work Customer Service Representative
ASIAN PEOPLESOURCE, INC. Anglo Peoplesupport Center, Asphalt cor. Oil Pluvial Ave., Makati City	Xinqing Wang Chinese	Executive, Operations (Mandarin Language)
ETESCO ASIA, INC. 26/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Jaya Gangar Indian	Work Customer Service Representative
WHEAT AND DIAMOND LIMITED/ BRADLEY BRIDGING PHILIPPINES Room 606, Delta Palace Space Bldg., 1017 Mandaluyong City, Taft Ave., Malate, Manila	Derek Jane Mc-Coubrie Irish	Contracts Design & Ethics Commission International Director
ASIAN PACIFIC TRADING CORP. 108 Pasadena Corporate Center, Pasadena Park, Paranaque, Str., Quezon City	Dalvinder Singh Indian	General Manager
ASIAN PACIFIC TRADING CORP. 108 Pasadena Corporate Center, Pasadena Park, Paranaque, Str., Quezon City	Mandeep Kaur Indian	Accounting Manager
J & A INTERNET SOLUTION INC. #7 Aliaga Square, P. Guevara St., Brgy. 744, Zone 87, Malate, Manila	Insaan Jung Korean	General Manager
ACE GLOBAL BUSINESS SOLUTIONS INC. 5/F Makati Supreme STEA Ayala Ave., Dasmarinas, Makati City	Tatsuya Kondo Japanese	Work Instructor of the Board
TELETECH CUSTOMER CARE MANAGEMENT (PHILS.) INC. Building F, SM Corporate Office 1000 Bay Blvd., SM Central Business Park, Bay City, Pasay City	Charles Edward Candee American	Executive Director, Service Delivery

ANNOUNCEMENT

All employers with an approved Alien Employment Permit are required to file their Request for Visa Clearance (RVC) and Annual Report for the year 2011 with the Manila Bank Visas Section, Roxas Blvd.

Non-submission of documents within the stipulated deadline will entail Manila Bank Visas Section not to issue visa clearance to the concerned alien employee. Thank you for your cooperation. For more information, please contact Ms. Lea Lopez at 832-3031 local 3 (visa).

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

ATTY. ALAN N. MACARILAY, CESO III
Regional Director

(09) April 26, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
ASIA ia MEDICAL CENTER

INVITATION TO BID FOR

Procurement of Drugs & Medicines
(2nd Posting)
IFB No. 2012-04-08-005

1. The **Asia Dara Ty Memorial Medical Center** through the Hospital Revolving Fund (HRF) intends to apply the amount being sourced out from the **Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO)** under the **Medical Assistance Program** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under this contract for **Procurement of Drugs & Medicines** more particularly described in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS).
2. The **Asia Dara Ty Memorial Medical Center** now invites bids for **Procurement of Drugs & Medicines**. Delivery of the items is required 30-45 working days. Bidders should have completed, within 2-3 years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

   Bidding is open to Filipino citizen/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizen or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from **Atty. Dara Ty Memorial Medical Center** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during **8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday**.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders on **April 26, 2012** from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Two Thousand Pesos.
6. The **Asia Dara Ty Memorial Medical Center** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on **May 10, 2012, 10:00 a.m.** at the **Conference Room, Annex Building, EXTENDED**, which shall be open only to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.
7. Bids must be submitted to the address below on or before **10:00a.m. June 8, 2012**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in any of the acceptable forms and in the amount stated in **ITB Clause 18**.
8. Bid opening shall be on **June 8, 2012 10:01 a.m.** at the **Conference Room, Annex Building EXTENDED**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.
9. The **Asia Dara Ty Memorial Medical Center** reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.
10. For further information, please refer to:

MARY G. BRIGHT MSN, RN
Admin Officer
ASIA MEDICAL CENTER
Tel. No. (082) 412-0000
Fax No. (082) 412-0000
admin_office@asiamedical.ph

(Sgd) DARA G. MALLEN, MD
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Representative of the BAC Secretariat

(09) April 26, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agrarian Reform
PAMBANSANG PAMUGUNAN NG PATUBIG
(National Irrigation Administration)
NIA-**JOSEFINA PUMP IRRIGATION PROJECT**
Tiwi-tiwi, Agusan del Sur

INVITATION TO BID

For Contract No. **NIA-PIP-2012**, Construction of Lateral "A" Canal and Structures, Sta. 7+400 to Sta. 9+400.00, of the Josefina Pump Irrigation Project.

The National Irrigation Administration, Inc. Josefina Pump Irrigation Project, through the Corporate Budget of the NIA dated for the calendar year 2012 under Corporate Budget Resolution No. 2011-07 dated 15 January 2011 intends to apply the sum of P 10,000,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) for payments under Contract No. JUMPI-12-01 and received in full of the NIA share to contract(s) as indicated in the following.

The National Irrigation Administration, Inc. Josefina Pump Irrigation Project now invites bids for the Construction of Lateral "A" Canal and Structures, Sta. 7+400 to Sta. 9+400.00, of the Josefina Pump Irrigation Project. Completion of the Works is required within **Two (2) Months** from the date stated in the Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed within the preceding five (5) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders. Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

Bidding shall be conducted following the open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding documents are available to all eligible interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P 20,000.00**.

Prospective bidders may purchase the bidding documents on **May 2, 2012** at the Office of the Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer (PARO) Tiwi-tiwi, Agusan del Sur, which shall be open to all interested parties who have purchased the Bidding Documents.

Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **1:30 PM of May 17, 2012**. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the form of Cash or Cashier's/Manager's Check in the amount stated in the BDS.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below. Late bids shall not be accepted.

The NIA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Atty. ELPIDIO Trinidad Agustin del Sur
Sr. Bid Officer
Tel. No. (086) 856-2480
Fax No. (086) 856-2480
Email Address

(Sgd) **MIGUEL DIZ-T. TIOTIOCO**
BAC Chairman

Noted:

(Sgd) **MARIANITO T. ARAO, JR.**
Project Manager

(09) April 26, 2012

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM

INVITATION TO BID
ITB No. 2012-041 - Goods

SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF 228 PC WORKSTATIONS FOR THE SSS MAIN OFFICE

Project Description	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) & Source of Fund	Delivery/Completion Period	Date/Time	
			Posted (Conference)	Deadline (Opening of Sealed Bids)
Supply, Delivery and Installation of 228 PC Workstations for the SSS Main Office	P10,000,000 (MOOE - Computer Equipment)	Immediate upon the effectivity of the Notice to Proceed - delivered within 30 days	May 03, 2012 (Thursday) 2:00 p.m.	May 18, 2012 (Friday) 2:00 p.m.

1. Bid documents consist of this ITB, Terms and Conditions, and Technical Specifications.

2. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, through the Bids and Awards Committee (Goods) (BAC-G), in accordance with the Government Procurement Reform Act (Republic Act No. 9184) and its Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), now invites bids for the above Supply, Delivery and Installation of 228 PC Workstations for the SSS Main Office. Delivery is required within thirty (30) days from receipt of Notice to Proceed. Bidders should have completed, within the last three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The bidder must have a completed sales contract similar to the Project equivalent to at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC.

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) No. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act.

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183.

4. Prospective bidders are invited to examine the Bidding Documents at the Procurement Department, 2nd Floor West, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue cor. Quezon Memorial Circle, Diliman, Quezon City from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, and purchase a complete set of Bidding Documents from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the SSS, provided that bidders shall pay the non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

5. The SSS reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award in accordance with Section 41 of RA 9184 and its IRR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

6. Bid prices shall be quoted in Philippine Pesos and shall be valid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of the opening of bids. Bid prices shall be inclusive of all applicable taxes, duties and fees, and delivery charges to the SSS Main Office.

7. For further information, please refer to:

Ma. Eduardo Lourdes Ma. Sarmiento
Chairman
BAC-G, 2nd Floor West, Executive Building
East Avenue cor. Quezon Memorial Circle
Diliman, Quezon City
Email: bac@sss.gov.ph
Telephone number: 920-6401 local 3302

(Sgd.) ENGR. ROLANDO M. CRUZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(FPN - Apr. 26, 2012)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF LA UNION
City of San Fernando

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contract:

NAME OF CONTRACT	LOCATION	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (P)	CONTRACT DURATION
[illegible]	Office of the Provincial Governor, Provincial Capitol, San Fernando City, La Union	6,000 bags Certified Palay Seeds (40 kilos/bag)	3,600,000.00	120 days
[illegible]		6,000 bags Hybrid Palay Seeds (3 kilos/bag)	3,000,000.00	
[illegible]		15,000 bags Organic Fertilizer (50 kilos/bag)	4,500,000.00	
[illegible]		20 bottles Insecticide (1 litre)	11,000.00	
[illegible]		200 packs Trichoderma	1,000.00	
		TOTAL	P12,112,000.00	

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activity	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	April 26, 2012 – May 15, 2012 at the BAC Office, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union
2. Pre-Bid Conference	May 2, 2012, 10:00 a.m. Conference Room/Session Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union
3. Opening of Bids	May 15, 2012, 10:00 a.m. Conference Room/Session Hall, Provincial Capitol, City of San Fernando, La Union
4. Bid Evaluation	May 16, 2012
5. Post-Qualification	May 17, 2012
6. Notice of Award	May 18, 2012

Bid Documents shall be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P20,000.00 to the Office of the Provincial Treasurer's Cashier.

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compare, rate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) DR. GEOFFREY S. TLAN
BAC Chairman

(FPN - April 26, 2012)

MAY TRABAHO DITO
Advertise in INQUIRER Libre

OBITUARIES

SERAFINA "PINING" ELAZEGUI-REVENTAR

December 24, 1933 – April 22, 2012

Preceded in death by her husband Rodolfo R. Reventar, Jr. on July 18, 2011.

Her loving children Rodolfo and Nida Reventar, Rodolfo Jr. and Irene Reventar, Raul P. and Margaret Reventar, and Rufino and Marlene Reventar; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives, and friends, request the prayers and/or mass offerings in progress for her eternal repose.

The wake is in state at the Laguna Memorial Chapel, F. Carreon St., cor. Rizal St., Calamba City.

Interment will be on Friday, April 27, 2012 after the 1 p.m. mass at the Calamba Catholic Church, Rizal St., in the Calamba Catholic Cemetery.

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..." Psalm 23:4

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II – B
MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

NOTICE OF OVERSTAYING SHIPMENTS AT THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT (MICP)

WHEREAS, the herein described items/goods were separately imported on various dates at the Manila International Container Port, which up to the present, no Customs Import Entry has been filed thereon nor claimed/authorization has been made thereto by their respective consignee/importer, or such rightful claimant within the period prescribed by law, to wit:

	CONTAINER NO.	COMMODITIES	DESCRIPTION
1.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	Weight	NO MARK
2.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	HYUNDAI CASE, 1992 L-TON #HMBSC01JPSB10016	SAN SEBASTIAN
3.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	Ri-Benz C300, 1998 • VIN WDBHA33E0WA274404	MARCH 5, 2012
4.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	AUDI 100 • WAUVD2A4XWA040308	BERNARD BENEDICTO
5.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	Mini Cooper • WMWR31B0YBR97	ENTERO CONTRACTS
6.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	Hyundai Sonata, 1999 #KMHWF25H1XA[illegible] TWELVE	MUNICIPALITY OF BARIRAN
7.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	Ford Taurus • VIN[illegible]1W765	SONYA ANDREA
8.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	Ri-Benz C240, 2000 • 2002 VIN WDBRF61J0YF[illegible]2644	DANE PASCUAL
9.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	Chevrolet Suburban, 1999 #1GNEK13R0YJ[illegible]	RUBIO DELTA OF PHILIPPINES
10.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	Dodge, Ram • #3B6MC36Y3XM[illegible]	G. F. CANDARI
11.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	Lexus ES 300, 2004 • JTHBA30G945[illegible]	JEFFREY CHUA
12.	ESI-HDT-[illegible]	Honda Integra, 1995 • JHMDC7360SS[illegible]	NO MARK
13.	ESI-HDT-[illegible]	Dangerous Drugs, 2002 • DRUGS[illegible]	NO MARK
14.	[illegible]	Ricardo Siaseco, 2005 - 2006 #[illegible] Alandur Galleon 75, 2006 #[illegible] Rue Fil-Hol Dominique General Santos Drive, 2006 a. Vios, 2006 #[illegible] b. Altimo, 2006 #[illegible] c. Wave, 2006 #[illegible]	DEFAULT BUILDING SYSTEM
15.	ESI-HDT-[illegible]	Mitsubishi Pajero, 1993 WMB-467[illegible] Mitsubishi, 1994 • VIN[illegible]	SHERWIN UY
16.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	Personal Effects	SHERWIN LOGISTIC MANILA PH
17.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	Personal Effects	SHERWIN GOLDSUN
18.	CHECTSI-[illegible]	Packing Bag	CECIL C. DIAZ
19.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	Toyota Prado, 96, 1999 • JT[illegible]1110	DIANE FOUNDATION
20.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	Mitsubishi Lancer, 1999 • JMBSNA3A00U[illegible]	SALVADOR ANGELES, JR.
21.	ECTSI-Cor Sidney	Suzuki Gr • JSAJD51S[illegible]	MARC PHILIPPE
22.	[illegible]	Honda Civic, 2004, Red, Man. Info, alt, gasoline • VIN SHHFS[illegible]1	RAYMOND MACEDO
23.	[illegible]	One (1) unit used motor CB #[illegible]	FUSHEN INTERCHANGE
24.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Personal Effects	SHERWIN LOGISTIC MANILA PH
25.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	One (1) unit Opel Astra Classic, 2000, White Engine No. G16[illegible] VIN #[illegible]	NO MARK
26.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	JDY made in China, 2000 Trikke • Engine No. C[illegible] VIN LJ4[illegible]	NO MARK
27.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Yamaha XTZ 250T XTZ Electric Starter, Red Engine No. 4GB[illegible] VIN JYA[illegible]	NO MARK
28.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Yamaha XTZ 250T XTZ Electric Starter, Red Engine No. 4GB[illegible] VIN JYA[illegible]	NO MARK
29.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Wuben	NO MARK
30.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Honda CUB, S, white/black Engine No. JA[illegible] Chassis No. JA[illegible]	NO MARK
31.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Honda Wave Engine No. NCC[illegible] Chassis No. NCC[illegible]	NO MARK
32.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Suzuki GS400, Red Engine No. 4H[illegible] Chassis No. NH[illegible]	NO MARK
33.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Honda 250 Custom, Red Engine No. [illegible] Chassis No. [illegible]	NO MARK
34.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Honda Super Four CB400, Red Engine No. NC39-[illegible] Chassis No. NC39-[illegible]	NO MARK
35.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Yamaha Motorcycle, Blue Engine No. 3WW[illegible]	NO MARK
36.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Kawasaki 1000cc, Maroon Engine No. EJT1[illegible] Chassis No. JKAZXJT1[illegible]	NO MARK
37.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Suzuki Black Engine No. [illegible] Chassis No. [illegible]	NO MARK
38.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Honda NR[illegible], Blue/White Engine No. NC[illegible] Chassis No. NC[illegible]	NO MARK
39.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Honda NR500, Blue/White Engine No. 4 E[illegible] Chassis No. [illegible]	NO MARK
40.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Suzuki Road, Silver, [illegible] Engine No. [illegible]	NO MARK
41.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Kawasaki KLE 400R, Green Engine No. [illegible]	NO MARK
42.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Yamaha Cuxhaven, Red Engine No. 3TF8-CH704 • Chassis No. 3TF8-[illegible]	NO MARK
43.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Honda Motor (OEC), Red/Black Engine No. NC39E-[illegible] • Chassis No. NC39-[illegible]	NO MARK
44.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	BMW (OEM), Black Incomplete Parts and Accessories Engine No. 6344[illegible] Chassis No. [illegible]	NO MARK
45.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Honda, Various, Used Incomplete units & accessories Engine No. [illegible] Chassis No. [illegible]	NO MARK
46.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Kawasaki KLR 250 E, Red Engine No. [illegible] Chassis No. [illegible]	NO MARK
47.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Yamaha, Red/Black Engine No. [illegible]	NO MARK
48.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Honda CB750 (OEC), Black, Incomplete parts and accessories Engine No. RC[illegible] Chassis No. RC[illegible]	NO MARK
49.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Honda (OEC), Green, Incomplete Parts and Accessories Engine No. NC[illegible] Chassis No. NC[illegible]	NO MARK
50.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Honda CB2, Black Engine No. NC[illegible] Chassis No. NC[illegible]	NO MARK
51.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Honda 250 R, 250cc, 4 Valve, Red Engine No. MC[illegible] Chassis No. MC[illegible]	NO MARK
52.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Honda CBR 1000RR, Red Engine No. [illegible]	NO MARK
53.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Honda Scooter 50cc, Blue Engine No. JA[illegible] Chassis No. JA[illegible]	NO MARK
54.	[illegible]	Suzuki Intruder 1500cc, Black Engine No. VS[illegible] Chassis No. JS[illegible]	HEIDEE TAGUNG
55.	ECTSI-Collector's Cove-CPS-1	Hybrid Scooter 50cc, Red Engine No. JA[illegible] Chassis No. [illegible]	NO MARK

Manila International Container Port, Manila, Philippines, this 17th day of April 2012.

ENGR. RICARDO R. BELMONTE, CESO II
District Collector of Customs

(FPN – April 26, 2012)

BUSINESS

PH to push for Asean integration plans in ADB meet

By Michelle V. Rosca

THE PHILIPPINES will push for the speedy implementation of plans to integrate the financial systems of and strengthen ties among Southeast Asian countries during this annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank in the country on May 2 to 5.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said that this year's annual meeting of ADB member countries would be an opportunity for Southeast Asian countries to discuss issues to improve their resilience given the lingering ill effects of unfavorable economic events outside the region.

Being a host to this year's convention, the Philippines deems it proper to take the lead in discussing issues that will help emerging Asian markets in responding to global shocks.

"It's an opportunity for Asean [Association of Southeast Asian Nations] countries to discuss how we can further intensify regional cooperation given the challenges brought about by what is happening in Europe and the rest of the world," Tetangco said.

Under the financial integration plan of Asean member countries, their financial systems will be linked to facilitate more economic activities within the region and, thereby, accelerate their growth.

Economic officials said that with lower economic growth opportunities in the region, member countries would no longer have to rely heavily on countries outside the region. Having more growth opportunities within Southeast Asia will help member-countries develop their economies even if Western industrialized countries were having problems.

The United States and the Euro zone are major export markets for goods produced by the Philippines and other emerging Asian countries. However, demand from these areas has been falling due to their economic problems.

There the financial integration plan of Asean is aimed at integrating members' countries' capital markets, financial services, and payments and settlements systems.

Capital market integration will allow cross-country listing of equities and provide easier means to buy and sell foreign portfolio instruments.

Financial services integration will allow banks based in one country to put up branches more easily in another country. These banks will have to adhere to uniform capitalization and regulatory standards.

SMDC launching 5 condo projects worth ₱37B

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE COUNTRY'S biggest condominium builder, SM Development Corp., will launch five projects worth about P37 billion this year to address Metro Manila's housing backlog, despite signs of glut in the real estate sector.

At the sidelines of the company's shareholders meeting on Thursday, the company said it expected sales to remain strong in 2Q12 as its recent rates remained in record lows and the Philippine economy continued to grow.

SMDC said it was also eyeing projects in China in line with the thrust by group's expansion overseas.

"If there's any saturation in the market, it's only being experienced by our competitors. Maybe their products are not suited to the market they are targeting," SMDC vice chair Henry Sy Jr. said.

The company said it would start building five new projects this year, involving about 17,500 condominium units.

SMDC president and chief operating officer Jonathan Gan said profit for 2Q12 was seen rising by as much as 20 percent over year-ago level.

SMDC's net income surged by 20 percent in 2Q11 to P4.1B billion, even as the company posted just about 300 "slow-moving" condominium units as it stop discounting to clear the company's inventory toward the end of the year.

"That was just P900 million out of our P37 billion in sales last year so it would not have made a difference," the younger Sy said. The sub-Sy said, was the company's "gift" to home buyers, because it had the re-assigned had already passed its take-out rates at that time.

As a sign of its optimism this year, Gan said the company had set a capital expenditure budget of P20.7 billion, up from the P13 billion spent last year.

Gas find

From page B1

mentally viable onshore wells as seen," Gatchalian said.

Adding firm and mining and oil fell the day's gains respectively rising by 1.6% percent and 0.6 percent.

Value turnover was heavy at P8.71 billion, suggesting conviction to the upswing. There were 104 advancers that edged out 49 decliners while 40 stocks were unchanged.

An upbeat report on the oil exploration of UK-based Forum Energy in the Sampaguita gas discovery in Recto Bank boosted the shares of Philex Mining (+9.26 percent) and its subsidiary Philex Petroleum, whose shares surged by 50 percent, the maximum daily price increase allowed in the exchange. Metro Pacific Investments shares also rose by 7.9% percent on a positive spillover effect from Forum Energy, which is controlled by Philex Petroleum, which is likewise part of the First Pacific group.

March budget

From page B1

pegged at P64.5B billion in the first three months.

"These developments only strengthen our resolve to continue with our initiatives to enjoy sustainable investment grade rating and lower our borrowing costs, but also to boost investments in social and economic services to improve productivity and economic growth," he said.

From January to March, the Bureau of Internal Revenue reconciled revenues of P220.04 billion, which was P3.6 billion short of the target but 14.2 percent higher year-on-year.

The Bureau of Customs chipped in P80.58 billion, which was P11.6 billion less than the target but 13 percent better than last year's collection.

Also, the Bureau of the Treasury turned in P97.76 billion, which was P45.07 billion more than the program although one percent less than the year-ago level.

Other government offices yielded P24.64 billion, surpassing the goal by P2.6 billion and also 6.2 percent better year-on-year. Revenue collections with a report from Reuters

LIFESTYLE Food

How Taipei's Chatime came to Manila

By Vergie Bega-Reyes

IS IT JUST a fad or is it here to stay?

Whatever it is, the bubble milk tea business is taking in big bucks, and Chatime hopes to prove that it's not just a fad, but something that will last.

"Before, you only drank tea like twice or thrice a week," said Henry Wang, president of Chatime, the bubble milk tea chain from Taiwan. "Now, we want to show that drinking tea regularly is good for your health, it should be a special treat every day."

"It's like building a habit," added Johnlu Ros, who obtained the Chatime master franchise for the Philippines, along with family members Marilou Ros, Michael Ros, Elbe Ros, Johnjen Ros and Christopher Ros.

"It's more of a treat now than a fad," said Johnlu, who's also The French Baker founder. "Consumers are always on the lookout for 'hallway' houses where they can relax away time to meet up with friends, organize their activities or finish up on some paperwork. Our time can customize to individual tastes and preferences. Its tea lounge concept is also an affordable alternative to pricey coffee shops."

TEA LEAVES are harvested in their young state for their strong flavor.

Beginnings

Wang, under his mother company Le Kaffa Coffee, started Chatime in 2005 in Hsinchu, Taiwan, where a lot of milk tea brands were already competing against each other. But Wang attempted to modernize the traditional tea culture by producing high-tech tea machines to make consistent-quality fresh teas and a variety of tea flavors, fruit extracts and toppings.

Many also didn't stop at being known locally for demand big, to be number one internationally in the bubble tea industry.

"I wanted to expand internationally and make bubble tea an international drink," said Wang. "In order to go international, it has to be standardized, so we invented the technology of brewing machines. We were the first one to use the technology."

NEWS C4

"We want to be known not just as a drink but also as dessert. We know most Filipinos like sweets, and that's a very big market'

HENRY SISON
CULINARY SCHOOL
Where Learning Is A Delightful Experience

Let Our Kitchen Be Part Of Your Kid's Wonderful Summer

Hacker
SILESTONE

Harbor Point blends the outdoors and the indoors amid the scenic beauty of Subic Bay; it is a refreshing respite from the hustle of the city.

Ayala Malls creates a new kin

Road trips to the North are bound to be more thrilling as a new adventure unfolds. Subic Bay, a popular vacation spot among local and foreign tourists, proves to be more than sun, sea and sand as it embraces a thrilling addition to its vibrant lifestyle with the opening of Harbor Point.

Strategically located at the heart of Subic Bay Freeport, along Rizal Highway, and Olongapo City and the neighboring towns of Zambales and Bataan, Ayala Malls' Harbor Point will be the landmark of shopping, dining and entertainment in the region. Anchored by Puregold Supermarket, it will offer a dynamic wealth of choices ranging from fashion and beauty, technology, home and an interesting line-up of dining and entertainment options. The adventurous spirit of Subic will be echoed thru its array of specialty shops featuring active lifestyle brands.

Its design, inspired by the scenic images of Subic Bay's harbor, and its expansive stretch of beaches, provides the shoppers an inviting and leisurely experience. Seamlessly merging interior hallways with open spaces, it offers a refreshing respite from the bustle of the city. With its verdant landscaping punctuated by cool water features, Harbor Point, gives the Subic holiday an exciting dimension. Take that exhilarating run through its 1-kilometer Riverwalk. Invite family and friends to stroll along the charming dining retreats of the Promenade. Round up your visit by enjoying events featuring the best of Philippine talents as well as community-initiated festivities at the Activity Center.

This summer, get on board as the hook-

Satisfy your cravings as you dine al fresco at The Promenade

Your newest Subic adve

Fresh trends, lively tastes and active fun a

Juris Live
April 26, 6PM

Anne Curtis Live
April 27, 4PM

Rizal Highway, Subi

d of adventure at Harbor Point

est trends, liveliest events and active fun all come together at Harbor Point Kicking off the 4-day launch festivity is a concert from pop acoustic artist Juris of ASAP Sessionistas on April 26. Catch the National Sweetheart and Arnelsyosa, Anne Curtis, in a special performance on April 27. On April 28, witness the hottest fashion trends to hit this summer as leading personalities from the Subic Bay community take on the catwalk. Skies will light up on April 29 as Harbor Point caps off the weekend with a gorgeous display of fireworks. Keep your eyes open for some celebrity spotting and be ready for some fun and games all week-long as your favorite retail brands bring the entertainment factor a notch higher.

The anticipation continues on in true Ayala Malls fashion as a diverse range of shops open their doors on April 26. Have a shopping holiday with popular local and fashion foreign brands Aeropostale, Bench, Converse, The Face Shop, Folded & Hung, Human, Kenneth Cobonpue, National Bookstore, Penshoppe and Shoe Salon; first-in-Subic concepts Digital Walker, Gaia, Power Mac Center and The Row; and active lifestyle brands Brotpack, Columbia, Quiksilver, Planet Sports, Ras-Tae-Ran, Toby's Sports and The Travel Club just to name a few. Satiate your palate with an array of dining options Army Navy, Bubble Tea, Caliwan, Max's Restaurant, Seafood Island, Sumo Sam, Starbucks and homegrown favorites Wilks.

Embark on an exhilarating escapade and experience all these in a destination where everyday's a holiday at Harbor Point.

Catch the National Sweetheart and Arnelsyosa herself, in a special performance on April 27.

Hear the latest pop acoustic tunes from the ASAP Sessionista's namesake, Juris on April 26.

nture opens on April 26.
t Harbor Point. Where everyday's a holiday.

Summer Fashion Show
April 28, 5PM

Fireworks Display
April 29, 7PM

c Bay Freeport Zone

How Taipei's Chatime came to Manila

Front page G1

There are several bubble tea brands in Taiwan but, according to Wang, they sell not the traditional way of brewing tea by hammer, not machines. "If you use the human way to brew tea, there are two things you still overrule first is quality control, the danger of handling hot water. If you use a machine, it takes care of all the dangerous issues."

Wang's advanced system allows the brewing of large amounts of tea in a shorter period of time, thus offering faster service in **affordable prices**. Other brands have their tea per order. The batch brewers can afford to serve several orders at the same time, while keeping its tea fresh all the time.

"Chatime is not just products, we want to sell our service, too," said 42-year-old Wang. "Like the Japanese—they sell great service, so we want to follow that tradition and have a great product like Chatime."

Wang added: "Our target group, 15-30 years old, is the fashion group. We want Chatime to be a fashion. We want to be known not just a drink but also a dessert, that's why we've added more toppings like pearls, grass jelly red beans and coconut jelly. We know most Filipinos like sweets, and that's a very big market."

Chatime, which means tea time in Chinese, has 500 stores around the globe, with $2B in billion sales last year.

Tea process

We were given a quick tour of the Chatime tea farm in Hualien County, Taiwan, and a short drama on how tea leaves are harvested and processed. Nearly 54 percent of teas in Taiwan are from Hualien, about three hours by bus from Taipei. Lush greenery and rows upon rows of verdant, lowrise tea plants welcome first-time guests to the tea country. Here, you discover where the company got its logo from—a leaf formation called "one bud, two leaves."

The leaves are harvested (about seven times a year) in their young state for their strong flavor. Most teat come from the same species, but the process of making them are exciting. Black or green tea is what accounts for their segmentation. Green tea is the lightest and most popular because it does not oxidize less to five hours, with no fermentation. Oolong is baked green tea with half fermentation. Black tea takes a bit longer because it's full fermentation.

"When they spray fertilizer, they don't pick the leaves in the next 60 days," said Johnlin.

After harvesting, the tea-tine-picked leaves are first left to dry for hours under the sun, then transferred to a spinning dryer until the leaves begin to wilt. Subsequently, they are put in a mill to extract the oil out of the shredded leaves, and the oil is then wiped back, in a way, onto their outer layer to bring out the richness essence.

The final result, after going through another spinning machine and a conveyer belt to loosen up the dried leaves, are dry, aromatic, dark tea leaves ready for packaging and later brewing.

"It's a 24-hour tea production," said Johnlin. "Chatime collects different blends from different suppliers to come up with its own superior blend."

HENRY Wang, Chatime founder and president

All in the family

Most ingredients for Chatime Philippines are shipped from Taiwan, including the concentrates and powdered milk, pearls, cups, straws, toppers, machines and tea leaves. Perishable stuff like fresh milk and whipping cream are sourced in Manila.

Chatime Philippines is run by Johnlin and his young entrepreneur nephews. Michael is the general manager in charge of opening new stores. Eliza, Michael's wife, handles operations and personnel, including the training of new staff, implementing new procedures, auditing the stores and handling store inquiries.

Christopher, the youngest in the group, is the finance director, taking charge of the cash flow and all money matters, pantos. lastly between the mother company and franchised stores.

Johnlin's brother, Johnjun, deals with the logistics, deliveries and warehouse operations. Johnlin and Marilou take care of the overall marketing strategy of Chatime.

The successful business know-how included The Franch Baker was what sealed the deal for the Chatime franchise.

"At first, they were not minding us because we were just a cooking and selling them," recalled Chris. "In the end, we just bugged them so much that the ratio of Henry Wang picked up the phone and said, 'Okay, you have lots of inquiries from the Philippines. Please tell me what you have and don't waste my time."

The group sent The French Baker profile to Taiwan and got the attention of the owners. Wang visited Manila in 2008 and signed the contract.

"They chose us because they wanted a more entrepreneurial experience. At the same time, we have a Taiwanese in the family. Plus, it was easier to communicate," Chris said.

Favorite flavors

Since Chatime opened in 2011, people have been queuing up to buy their favorite milk tea flavors. The best-selling drink is still the signature Chatime Pearl Milk Tea. The store prides itself on using real tea leaves to all its milk teas, as well as having the charcoal black pearls in town.

It's also proud of its tea drink, using real tea, and not just synthetic ole powder. There are also other wider appeal, sweet (less coffee bitterness) concoctions, something familiar to their taste buds.

Chris prefers drinks that really bring out the aroma of the tea—anything with Jasmine Green Tea, such as Jasmine Green Tea Blizzard, Jasmine Green Milk Tea or Passionfruit Green Tea. Johnlin prefers Oolong tea with zero sugar. Michael enjoys Lychee Green Tea.

"Long queues are a good problem to have," said Chris. "But we are also serious about making sure operations more efficient. Customer is king in this business and we don't want any misunderstood Chatime experiences. That is also why we decided to invest in RFID (radio frequency identification) system where we give out to customers after ordering."

The buzzers vibrate and prompt the customer when his drink is ready, so he can be free to walk around the area or chat with friends while waiting for his drink. It is known a lot of the "counter stone" that disgruntles a lot of people, and it provides customers the convenience to move around.

Competition in the bubble tea business has spanned left and right. But the young entrepreneurs are not worried.

"Obviously, business people are resorting to the growing trend of tea. As the change, I still think the market has not yet been saturated. I'm sure many of our competitors are doing out bad as well," said 24-year-old Chris.

"We are very lucky to have The French Baker as our support group and this really helped us a lot to expand at a very rapid rate," added Michael. "We compete by way of being innovative with our products especially with the launch of our 'Chatime Bites' where we sell more to serving fresh baked items, sandwiches and pastries to our Chatime stores."

At present, Chatime has 13 branches: Cameroon Grove, Shaw Blvd., Global City, Pioneer Center, Gateway Mall, Landmark Binondo, Makati, Robinsons Galleria, Eton Cite Antipo, Plaza Fair, SM Mall of Asia, SM North Edsa, Ortigas Greenhills, Trinoma, Quezon City, Alabang Town Center Mall, and Landmark Makati Food Court. Chatime is now in operation in Cebu.

The company plans to have 10 stores by June 2012.

E-mail the author at chogs@inquirer.com.ph

Rice made better

SWEET Herrera

UNILEVER HAS a new innovation, Knorr Rice Mate—perfect for mothers who want to serve great-tasting rice while still spending minimal time on it.

Mothers like Sweet Herrera have been relying on Knorr Rice Mate to encourage their kids to eat more rice. Made from Thai Jasmine Rice and Pandan extract, Knorr Rice Mate improves rice by giving it the right softness and richness.

"My kids are picky and complain about the texture of our rice as they need to just finish their viand," she says. "But with Knorr Rice Mate, my kids are able to enjoy every spoonful of soft, white rice. More than the enhanced texture, the freshly harvested smell draws the little ones to our kids' appetite."

Knorr Rice Mate is now available at leading supermarkets, groceries and convenience stores nationwide.

Making rice Mateo Tandoan says, "I now have peace of mind knowing that my whole family gets the same enhanced, delicious Knorr Rice Mate provides a more practical solution to buying high-grade rice to only ₱2.50 per packet.

"Knorr Rice Mate has helped us nourish our budgets," says Melody Gilmathla.

Italian tonight?
An Italian chef visits The Maya Kitchen.

MAIN COURSE
Chef Roberto Cristiano, Italian Chef de Cuisine of the Edsa Shangri-La will reject his flavors of Italian cuisine to the Maya Kitchen. Get ready to be under the spell of the classic Mediterranean. Available Ongoing. Price: ₱1,450 (Inclusive of one (1) Iced Tea/Soft Drink/Juice). Mon 11 (Sat) 9 pm.

LIFESTYLE COURSES
FROZEN DELIGHTS Nothing beats the best lemon than homemade ice cream and sorbet on April 28 (Sat) 2 pm.

SAVORY & CHILD COOKING TAUGHT Basic pastry, gelato, chicken strips, tortilla pizza and more would definitely warm hearts when cooked with love on April 28 & May 5 (Sat) 9 pm.

INTERNATIONAL BREADS Rise and shine bread from different countries. Focaccia, bagels, pretzels and more will be popped in the oven on May 19 (Sat) 1, 30 pm.

SUMMER CULINARY WORKSHOPS
JUNIOR CULINARY for boys and girls ages 9-12. May 9-11 (Tues-Fri) 8:30-11:30pm, Tue: 1 Breakfast session. Thu: 1 Tea during in Italy. Day 1 Modern Mexican. Day 2 Island up/Adobo Bowl

YOUNG PEOPLE'S CUISINE for teens 13 years old and up. May 15-16 (Tues-Wed) 9am-4pm. Day 1 Pasta Duo - Day 2 Pie day. Day 3 Italian restaurant standard Day. Instructor: Chef Roberto Cristiano

CERTIFICATE COURSES
CAKE DECORATING Basics & Advanced) May 2-4 (Wed-Fri) 10am-12pm

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED BAKERY PRODUCTION May 2-4 (Wed-Fri) 9am-12pm / May 15-16-17, 19 (Tues-Wed, Thurs & Sat) 1-5 pm.

BASIC CULINARY May 7-11 (Mon-Fri) 1-5 pm. / May 12-13 (Sat-Sun) 8 am-4pm

CATERING May 19-20 (Sat-Sun) 10am-5pm

For more information on other courses offerings, log on to
www.themayakitchen.com
or to reach course coordinators at
or visit The Maya Kitchen at Gilmore Center (near Timog Avenue) at #8 Gilmore Building, 201 E. Avenue Avenue (Timog Road), Quezon City
or call 895-2187 / 895-3561 (local 308) / 895-3572/28

The Maya Kitchen
Like us on FB

LIFESTYLE Food

3 easy steps to make 1 kg of fresh yogurt

EASIYO
Delicious Yogurt Made Easy!

Puey Quiñones–from couture to cooking

By Paris Pucay

PUEY QUIÑONES will go down in my book as the first person to succeed in making me eat liberal espresso. And hope.

It was lunch on a scorching summer day and Quiñones served his offerings each here white rice. The Bicol-blood pig lungs and heart, simmered in fresh coconut milk and mixed with fire spices and green Thai chili) was good, but it was his Bicol Express (finely sliced pork belly simmered in fresh coconut milk and topped with green Thai chili) that I loved. It was so good that I kept thinking about it for days. I asked myself—why did I resist at first?

Then that is would be the start of a pattern—that, just a couple of weeks later, Quiñones would manage to make me eat more food I've never wanted to try before and actually enjoy it.

Other talent

People know Quiñones as a fashion designer. But the closest to him is his other talent—cooking.

Growing up in Samar, Quiñones said his family didn't have a lot of food. "Super hirap nanuon, deputed down sa food. I had to be creative. Kung anong meron sa kitchen gagawan ng paraan para makakain ka. I used to eat oil and rice and add sugar for flavor."

The lack of food fueled his passion for it. "As a 6-year-old, I used to watch the chef cooking. It was fascinating."

Quiñones was 18 when his family got its first stove. Before that, they used charcoal to cook. When he was in high school, Quiñones' parents asked him to prepare the family meals often. "I would make mesang tipon, favorite ko 'yon noong batchoy."

When he moved to Manila to work for his aunt and her luminal pattern fashion designer Dennis Lustico, Quiñones kept his love for food and his family recipes with him.

"Food is my drug, food is my life. I can make fashion, I can create fashion. But food feeds me, food feeds my soul," he said. While people in the hub use would spend money on clothes, bags and shoes, Quiñones would rather splurge on food.

His roommates spending his first paycheck as a designer on food. "I ate at Prince Albert's (at) ways wanted to try food gets so I did."

Good food

Quiñones doesn't just enjoy eating food, he loves cooking for family and friends. And while he continues to design, he's been dreaming of starting a food business for a while now; he wants more people to taste his food. Enter Andrew Rivera.

Rivera, who moved here from Los Angeles and is now a bartender/model, met after looking for a business to start. "I met Quiñones a while ago and when I was considering my options, he talked about wanting to go into food. I said, why not?"

Rivera loves Quiñones' food. "I usually have a dish I like and I overdose on it and end up not liking it after a month. I don't get that with Puey's food. Maybe it's because of the variety. And his food is so flavorful. The flavors are intense. Eating his food is an experience."

His favorites include the Puerto Algier Cappelleti noodles topped with caper sauce, Spanish sardines, Indian seasoning, black olives, parsley and parmesan cheese); Native Chicken (which Quiñones serves two ways—Tinola or Adobo or Tausi) and Salted Egg Salad.

The two are now partners and their roles are clear. Quiñones focuses on the food and makes magic in the kitchen, while Rivera is the investor and takes care of the business side.

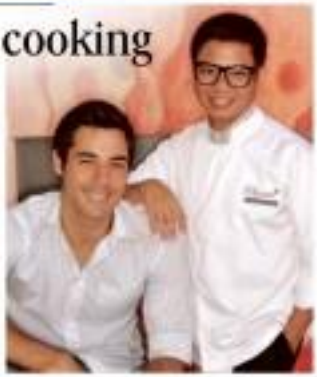
"We call it Puey's Penthouse," said Rivera. "The original idea was for people to make a reservation, come to Puey's home and we'll have dinner for them. We can provide a relaxing dining atmosphere. We'll entertain you. You can hang out with your friends and have really good food."

They accept reservations for a minimum of 10 people. Dinner includes appetizer, salad, three main courses and a glass of wine for each guest. There are different menus to choose from: Filipino (Pinoy Adgeo, Wellness, Calderetta, Bicol Express, Dahon), Crispy Pata), Italian (Parmigiana with Crispy Catfish, Ginataang Bopis, Gambas, Escabeche, Tinolang Native

PUEY'S

'This is Puey's Penthouse's ready-to-wear line,' says the fashion designer of his affordable office meals

ROASTED Garlic Chicken Andrew Rivera and Puey Quiñones



THIS table is party-ready

Interesting ways to serve ham this summer

By Irene C. Perez

SUCCULENT HAM is a Christmas staple, but now can serve it every day—"off-peak" season like summer.

Pureheads recently launched its Hickory Hill Boneless ready-to-grill ham made with the same technique as the Hams Of Pasig Hall, traditionally served during the holidays, but with an earthy smoked flavor.

According to company manager Meshel Catacutan-Bona, Pureheads sold around two million pieces of Hickory Hill ham made with the same technique as the Hams Of Pasig Hall, traditionally served during the holidays, but with an earthy smoked flavor.

According to company manager Meshel Catacutan-Bona, Pureheads sold around two million pieces of Hickory Hill ham this year. It comes with a pack of pineapple glazing to be added in the cooking to give the ham a sweet taste and syrupy sheen, and keep the meat moist.

The Smoked Boneless sliced ham, with a bit of spice pack, has citrus-y mango-kiwi glaze. It is still slightly sweet, but with a refreshing fruity note.

Maple-syrup glaze

Chef Jessie Sincioco made several dishes from easy to dessert using the Smoked Boneless Ham and served it at lunch at Sunbowl Club. She also shared the secret to tender, uncooked ham: maple syrup.

"The best way to cook ham at home is to pan-fry it in some hot butter. When the ham is done, drizzle it with maple syrup and quickly take it off the heat. It will be a little sweet but not syrupy. Serve this as filling for pan de sal or ciabatta, with sliced tomatoes."

Grill it, toss it in salad, and put in spaghetti or fried rice

CREATIVE Ham Soup, Grilled Ham & Vegetable Kebab in mini skewers

CELEBRITY moms present ham recipes: Danica Sotto-Pingris, Suzi Entrata-Abrera, Rachie Rimathe-Hamasaki and Christine Jacob-Sandejas

Sliced ham can fold also be incorporated in fried rice, like added. To make, add finely diced ham, carrots, sautéed egg and green peas to your overnight and you'll get that nice ham to your dinner.

Quick recipes

Celebrity moms Suzi Entrata-Abrera, Christine Jacob-Sandejas, Rachie Rimathe-Hamasaki and Danica Sotto-Pingris presented chef Sincioco's limited Boneless Ham menu.

Abrera, a fitness-oriented mom, said kids can be extremely picky with food and a easy presentation is always a must-see. Her servers her husband Pau Jr. and kids Lorna, Jude and Sela missed herbed ham in crepe pouches tied with onion stalk, plus a kebab of bite-size ham, tomatoes and zucchini. These appetizers are also great for parties, snacks and lunch.

Still looking like the charming bond she's from the '90s (Hungry Young Poets and Barbie's Cradle), Hamasaki recommended spaghetti with ham and cream sauce for kiddie parties. Simple pasta dishes are a hit with her husband Martin and their two kids.

For something fresh and light, Jake Sotto-Pingris suggested serving a salad of toasted pecans with slices of passion fruit and ham. The passion fruit each give it a crunch and the ham provides just enough saltiness. Passion-fruit vinaigrette was used as dressing.

To warm the tummy, chef Sincioco served thick, creamy potato soup with ham slices on the bottoms of the cup. This was followed by the main course, ham Wellington—savory ham and mushroom baked into a pastry puff.

The meal was capped with a surprise dessert—mini fruit pies with ham topped with whipped cream.

Check out our take the ham on your road trips.

Cream of Potato & Ham Soup

- 50 g potatoes, cubed
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 pc onion, chopped
- 50 g Pureo ham, diced
- 2 oz white wine
- ½ L chicken stock

Salt and pepper to taste

Boil potatoes until soft. Drain. Sauté garlic and onion. Add Pureo ham. Deglaze with white wine. Season with salt and pepper. Add chicken stock.

Grilled Ham & Vegetable Kebab

Cut Pureo ham into 1-inch strips, grill. Cut into bite-size pieces, season with salt, pepper and paste. Cut into bite-size pieces aubergine, zucchini, broccoli florets, red bell pepper, tomato, onion. Grill. Skewer vegetables and ham. Drizzle with pesto before serving.

PUREFOODS-HORMEL company manager Meshel Sinay; chef Jessie Sincioco. Purefoods marketing manager Joyce Cruz

THE BREAKFAST Store

BOWL of dehydrated fruits and vegetables

'Tilanggit (tilapiang-dinanggit),' jams, 'tableas' and coffees—all for a hearty breakfast

THE BREAKFAST Store is a welcome addition to the list of "big" concept outlets. One might not even take notice of it, as it subtly blends in among a series of other small food establishments.

But somehow its sign and logo caught my attention—size and density, in blue and white. Just doesn't add to its name, but to those that adorn a plate.

I walked in and saw a rustic, simple blue table with "Store" Mandarin and a plate setting for two. Country-style ambiance. Not exactly it wouldn't be a restaurant made just for two.

So I headed toward the shelves and looked at its contents. I saw breakfast meats, tea cakes, fungus.

On the shelves were piling jar (dinapang-dinanggit) and all sorts of jams, tableas and coffees—all with that home-cheris or homemade taste and feel. Most of the merchandise, sourced from all over the Philippines, come from Bacolod, Ilocos, Tagaytay or Cebu.

I bought a couple of the products and had them this morning. They are not the usual breakfast meats we buy. The Breakfast Store's owners aim to "take us back to time in our youth. For me, the taste is reminiscent of customers in the provinces when visits, mornings or noon will run dried the fans. Baked meat to make tasted beef and themselves ground, mixed and stuffed their own sweet and fragrant tea.

The jams are also interesting. Each one have a specific presence and made from homegrown fruit such as carabao, tomato, jengkol and guava.

The coffee selection, some eight local varieties, range from the standard Arabica, Benguet, etc., to civet, this one's new coffees.

There are lunchmeats, too! Among is blue and white are the cutest I've seen and the sweet flour ones and top like—sites! The place also sells plates, wagon, tsaweet and weekend items—quite a blueprint a client to serve!

I was told by the lady who attended to me that they were exporting more breakfast to local restaurants.

But what I found most inspiring was what I read in the flier...that, apart from being staunch advocates of eating "breakfast" (the store inspires most of the days) and making the meal the main dinner, it shows care for homegrown kitchen entrepreneurs. The Breakfast Store's owners have also partnered with farmers like Hacienda Lopez to address the nutritional needs of child nutrition to improve academic performance.

The Breakfast Store will donate one breakfast for every branded product purchased in store. With an advocacy like this, one can only wish this place the very best!

The Breakfast Store—tel. 88137812/8137437. For stores like this to thrive Learning Project, Ave Cor Ilo, tel. 8093651 loc. 2123

Dehydrator

Summer is perhaps the perfect time to own a dehydrator, when fruits are abundant, ripe, juicy and at their prime.

A dehydrator was always part of my wish list, but somehow I never bought one. Afraid it to be such chunks to bring home, and opted to use my bulkhouse box space for other more useful gadgets instead.

But since US-made dehydrators are now locally available, it's a different story. The model I bought has five trays and it is as simple to use.

Simply slice fruits or vegetables and lay them on the dehydrator's trays. Switch the unit on to the proper setting—jerky, jelly, fruit or vegetable. Then wait...for most different part of the process!

In a matter of hours, you have a stockpile of dehydrated fruits and vegetables.

Since getting my unit, I have made tomatoes and used them for my pasta. The fruits, particularly the pineapples, mangoes, apples, bananas and kiwis, turned out excellent in adding taste and aroma.

And since they are "dried," they're instantly flavorful. Like the dehydrated jengkol that I made and opted to use for my groceries in lieu of the fresh variety. The preparation was much easier. Of course, part of it is also because I never fail to sell the mangosteen to only scrape the white portion. Doing so guarantees that the coconut milk stays white and, once cooked, is rich, silky and creamy, not brown and murky.

The mangosteen I made I used to top my salad. Maybe it's psychological, but somehow, my fruits tasted way better than those I buy off the shelves.

Next experiment—using the fruits for my muesli, making fruit jellies, tapas and jerky. Thank God for this gadget, I can now let the taste of summer last a little longer.

Dehydrators...Call 0917.4288791.

My book "Kitchen Basics 3: The Dirty Dozen"—My Lifeline to Eating, Cooking and Living" is now available at all leading bookstores, or call 6347456.

E-mail the author at inquirer@inquirer.com.ph

KITCHEN RESCUE

Peggie Aphrem

'Not made for the kitchen?' I don't believe you

THERE IS joy in feeding people!

My first exposure on TV was on my mom's cooking show "Let's Cook with Nora." I was about 10 years old when I first accompanied her to ABS-CBN, which was then along Bonny Boulevard, to do her live cooking show.

She had a guest, but she also called me to join her on live TV. Feeling that I would have to open my mouth, expose my tonsils and make a fool of myself before the entire television viewership (my Lenten or Holy Week, I reckon). I swore that I would never, ever do television.

But you know what they say. "Never say never!" Two decades later, my mom's show was still airing. One day, my mom's secretary found a letter addressed to my sister Nina and I that my mom had just left for Davao and that we were needed to take her place as hosts for her cooking show.

Fear. I remember fear was the first feeling that rushed over me as Nina and I were left with no choice but to concede. After the tapings, astounding is not exceptingly, we both had fun. We discovered our fears in this first episode, but reasoned that we knew what we were talking about, anyway.

To make a long story short, we became regulars on the show, until life's circumstances pulled us in different directions and I was left to host the show solo.

Especially, I ended up with my own show called "Cooking With Sandy." I had to come up with new recipes each episode. Sometimes, when I can, I was always looking for new ideas. I could now into recipes of my own.

This went on for years. I had a mental bank of recipe ideas that I could access when needed.

Cookbook

My wife Yoon encouraged me to share the recipes in a cookbook. This led to my cookbook, "Cooking With Sandy Daza," launched last August, and quickly became a bestseller at SM Philippine Publications category.

My recipes are simple and encouraging to the novice cook, just like my show. I tell people, if you know how to read, you will be able to cook the dishes. I made sure my ingredients are easy to find, affordable and, of course, tasty.

These are "everyday mom" ideas. In my experience, no matter how good a dish tastes, if it is served too often, people will get tired of it. That is true especially for children. That's why your neighbor's food always tastes better to your kids, and your neighbor's kids just love to eat your food.

After a few years of staying in Canada, I have also gone back to doing what I love the most—sharing recipes with people. My new cooking show, "Kitchen Confidence with Sandy Daza," starts airing this Sunday at 9 a.m. on the lifestyle channel of TV5, Digital. I will use my old formula of simple, doable and delicious recipes and affordable ingredients.

I don't believe anyone who tells me, "I'm not made for the kitchen." Why likely that person started with a recipe he or she mastered, got negative comments about it, and basically discouraged the person from trying again.

Trick

Cooking, like everything else, is confidence building. I suggest you start with a recipe that is simple and easy to follow recipe. Then keep doing it until you yourself believe it to be perfect.

That's why I call my new show "Kitchen Confidence." I will provide the refreshment with confidence-building recipes. For all intents and purposes, I will prepare your favorite dishes before you do the actual cooking. Make sure each ingredient is cut according to proportion or size and is arranged in sequence of use.

For an experienced cook, my recipes will be provided some ideas.

There is nothing more satisfying to me as a cook than to get positive comments from people who have tried my recipes.

I thank all my recipes except for a few I use to copy new restaurants. I just opened a new restaurant called Sandy's Tapsilogan, on Tomas Gato 7 in Kaligayahan, Quezon City. Hopefully, the dishes I share will inspire you to come up with your own ideas as well.

Happy eating!

Check out my blog at sandydaza.blogspot.com or tweet me @sandydaza

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

Puey Quiñones—from couture to cooking

From page D1

Chicken, Native Chicken Adobo sa Gata's and Cordon-bleu (Steamed Pattis Roll, Roasted Garlic Chicken, Old-School Pork Chops, Slow-Roasted Pork Belly, Pan-Roasted Porgy and Fennel Salad).

The cost is P880 or P900 per head, depending on the dishes you pick.

Quiñones doesn't think he'll have problems juggling his two roles. He says fashion and food are very similar.

Roasted garlic chicken

We got a taste of Puey's Penthouse one Thursday. The incredible meal started with baked-egg baked (sliced salted egg, wedges with tomato, ripe mango, dilation and four kinds of vinegar). Of all of those ingredients, I only eat two things—mango and dilation. I am not a fan of vinegar and I hate salted egg.

"Don't try," Quiñones said. I picked up my fork and felt my taste buds' comfort zone. Quiñones didn't just ensure a refreshing salad that was very Pinoy in taste, he also managed to make me enjoy salted eggs, vinegar and fresh tomatoes, something I never thought was possible.

The second course featured oatch Roasted Garlic Chicken (slow-roasted chicken re-roasted with olive oil, coated in grass sauce and rosemary leaves then stuffed with lemongrass, garlic and onion), prepared beautifully.

"This is genius," Quiñones joked as he carved the chicken. It was so good, my stomach still wants just drinking about it. It was incredibly moist and flavorful. The baby potatoes and roasted garlic cloves complemented the chicken. I've had a lot of roasted chickens in my life but nothing quite like it.

Like third express and hope, lang is a dish I've never been intrigued by. But Quiñones' Pinangat with Crispy Catfish (unagged taro leaves simmered with coconut milk and sprinkled with fried crispy catfish) also changed my mind. I enjoyed the spicy kick and how the crispiness of the catfish lent the dish an extra dose of texture.

The Hamba (tenderized pork belly broiled then simmered in soy sauce and vinegar and mixed with laurel leaves, star anise and dried bamboo shoots) is a favorite of his friends. That Thursday, we realized why. It was rich and flavorful and the pork was fall-off-the-bone tender. Quiñones says his Hamba is the combination of his grandmother's and father's recipes.

People who want to enjoy his cooking don't need to bring a party of 10. Quiñones and Rivera also do catering. Their recent clients include Kate Bertelli, Bianca Gonzalez, Cassy Ilano and Shaniz Tan. People can also choose to order trays of dishes individually.

Andrew's Meal

The two have also launched the down's Meal—affordable office meals. "This is Puey's Penthouse's ready-to-wear line," said Quiñones. The meals can be delivered to offices in and near Makati.

Rivera said, "For Makati, we have a minimum of 10 orders per office. Outside Makati, the minimum will be higher. The game thing is the person who takes his office/mates' orders and calls us will get their lunch for free." Orders should be made a day in advance.

They have a good variety of dishes available, from Guisang Bagas, Humba and Bird Express to BBQ Chicken, Guisang Tilapia and Pork Binagoongan. The meals range from P65 (Laing and rice) to P180 (Fish Fillet with Pesto Sauce). All meals come with rice.

For Quiñones, Puey's Penthouse is more than just a business, it's a chance for him to share his passion for good food and the rich culture of his beloved Ilonggo.

Call Puey's Penthouse at 5439135 or 0920-7309372, e-mail puey@pueyquinones@gmail.com. Visit www.facebook.com/pueyquinones. Orders and reservations should be made three days in advance.

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Alternative comfort foods

THE QUIET DINER

BESTIES AT A GLANCE

Hainanese and Korean chicken dishes have become Manila's new cravings

AFTER SO much rich, creamy, Italian food, **we thought we'd seek some light, simple** dishes that subtly, in other words, comfort food.

In the past, the comfort food were roast and crispy, juicy and even edible, even **sans and indulgent. There are still around,** but today, there's the "invasion" by some foreign eaters. Manilans are excited about their food offerings, especially since the new eaters serve food that are easy on the pocket.

Toast Box

Ba-gas Circle, Intramuros, Rizal/Metro Global City

This is a tiny place on Rizal Street which one would think serves only bread (presumably toasted). Surprisingly, it is actually a place offering many delicious Hokkien food, with the distinct flavors of Singapore.

Dining area—Not much to say about. The tables are quite sized, measuring not quite 2 feet by 2. And yes, chairs are as small. The entire décor is a single road sign that says Rizal Street and Orchard Road, referring to a main street in the Lion city. Behind the counter are the wall frames with a listing of their offerings.

Service—Not as fast as one would expect, but we suspect they prepare the dishes as they are ordered. Which is good enough. The diner gets them freshly cooked.

Staff—Cordial, efficient.

Suggested menu—How can one go wrong in ordering a Singapore signature dish, the Hainanese Chicken, which comes here with either rice and soup or noodle soup and noodles. It is perfect. The soup comes steaming hot and very flavorful. The chicken comes with just the right seasoning, in most it most tender.

They have other entrees...Nasi Goreng, Hokkien Prawn Rice and Chicken sotanghon with noodles.

After one has been satisfied (and comforted), one may ask for dessert. Here is where one is referred to the Toast Box, a selection of breads, which the management serves as dessert. They come open-faced with different toppings—Raya (a typical spread), Ham, Cheese, among others.

There is a choice of beverages to wash down the food. What is good is that, depending on the meal ordered, the bill can only range from P175 per diner and P469 for a whole chicken which can be shared. Truly comforting!

Service and government taxes are enforced, Senior cards are honored.

Rating:

Chicken-BarChan

Ma-a Bldg., Arafat Town Center, Muntinlupa City tel. 4781468.

This would remind those who have gone to Korea of the Chicken Pubs where offer their unique fried chicken. This food being so popular is normally the preferred choice of those wanting quick delicious meal. Lines always form, extending outside the door.

Service—Nearly chaotic as always with big ranging groups. It takes a few minutes to get one's order, but nothing to complain about because the dishes are lovingly done. We suggest one spend a few minutes studying the menu before falling in line, decide on how many pieces you want, thus avoiding a crowd will be the creator.

Staff—Enthusiastic, accommodating.

Suggested orders—Concentrate on any of the chicken offerings. Each piece is covered two on the wood, instead of coated, because we suspect they make a unique lumpia wrapper like covering that gives it the crispy consistency). To accompany the main dish, there is a choice, rice, noodles, salads. But refrain from Chapchae which we found lacking in flavor.

They honor senior cards.

Rating:

Shi Lin

Taiwanese Cuisine. Likewise in the new ATC Wing, tel. 8909969.

This is where one gets the old reliable Comfort Food of Dimsumms and Noodles.

Dining area—A bit tight, specially when it gets full at lunchtime. One is likely to share a table, during peak hours. Nothing fancy about the décor.

Service—Fast

Staff—Good

Suggested orders—The list is long, the try the Noodles with Sesame and Peanut sauce, quite different from the usual. This is rather sticky and heavy but satisfying. Of course, get the new very popular Xiao Long Bun, the dimsum with the steaming soup, which not cheap, but taking care not to have one's tongue burned. They've got small plates of Japanese Gyozakes and Pickled Cabbage and Fried Chicken Chops. The usual drawers are on the menu, Taro Dumplings, Red Bean Bun and Shi Lin Cheesecake.

Government and service charges are in the bill. Senior card is honored.

Rating:

RATING INDEX

Poor Good Excellent

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NOVARTIS

New Asean coffee blend to be launched in Manila

FINANCE ministers and delegates from 45 countries will be kept up and about by a unique blend of coffee when they meet in Manila this May for the 40th annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank Board of Governors.

The Philippine Coffee Board and the Specialty Coffee Association of the Philippines, with the Asean Coffee Federation, are developing a coffee blend that will use a variety of Arabica beans sourced from different coffee-producing Asean countries.

PCB co-chair Hicita Aun says this is the first time coffee producers and sellers in Asean are coming together to create an Asean coffee blend unique to the region. It is officially named the Asean Coffee Federation Blend.

"This Asean blend is representative of our sentiment to come together as a region both in economic matters and in lifestyle products," says Aun.

Many Asean countries, such as Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore and Laos, grow coffee. The PCB co-chair says Vietnam is the No. 2 producer of coffee beans in the world, while Indonesia is No. 4.

"Wait, if not all, coffee chains source many of their coffees in Asia, but this coffee is never promoted as Asian or from Asean," she adds.

Filipino master roaster Manny Tecson of PCB will create this Asean blend from different Arabica coffees produced in the region. SCAP members will cup each coffee to determine the best roasting profile for each.

"There is a science to it," says Aun. "It's not just mixing and blending any which way."

However, the Philippine Barako will not be part of the blend. The Barako coffee is made from Liberian beans, which will not be used in creating the Asean coffee blend.

THE BLEND will use Arabica beans from coffee-producing Asean countries.

Although we will have single-variety coffees like the Barako during the Manila ADB, the SCP has decided that the Asean blend will be 100 percent Arabica," Aun explains. "This is to avoid any overpowering characteristics of Barako to mask or cover the qualities of the Arabica coffee beans of others."

The Philippines plays host to this year's ADB Annual Meeting as the Philippine International Convention Center, May 3-5. Instituted Manila 2003, the country will welcome finance and governor planning ministers from over 67 ADB member countries, with over 4,000 delegates.

Delightful doses of healthy Lebanese food

COUNTRY COOKING

Mickey Fenix

"VEGETABLE stirred!" That's how Lebanese are called according to Claudia Roden, author of "A New Book of Middle Eastern Cuisine" (Penguin Books, 1985).

Lebanese chef Ishtek Elzahdi says, famed that proudly Lebanese food, by no means, is 70 percent vegetables. Which is why he said, Lebanese women are always admired for their beautiful skin. It's the vegetables in the diet.

Elzahdi is the Middle Eastern chef at the New World Hotel's 9SDM Café in Makati. From Monday to Saturday, the hotel serves an all buffet at lunch and dinner courses the cooking of Lebanon, Syria and Jordan, all certified halal...done by this Lebanese chef.

His family name is also the name of the family restaurant. His latest research cooking is because of his mother, who he says cooks authentic Lebanese cuisine, traditional recipes like slow-cooked lamb cubes called kibbeh, which has a funny history. It's supposed to be lamb scales that cooked inside a road hole so that there is no room to get away the place of cooking. The name used to history remains, although the lamb is no longer stolen.

It was also his mother who approved of his going into cooking instead of his going into the military, which his father, a high-ranking military officer, had wanted. Elzahdi finished culinary studies in Beirut and started his career hooked by "passion rather than obligation."

In a special preview, chef Elzahdi made six courses for a total of 20 dishes. Even if I had eaten as much to Tribeca a Lebanese restaurant, I was still overwhelmed by the number especially since the cold appetizers and salads were already set at the middle of the table.

Salads

These Lebanese salads swallowed the vegetable part of the cuisine, all with a dressing of olive oil and lemon juice. Tabouleh or parsley salad should be the most familiar. The cabbage salad with cucumber is called fattoush, but this one with cucumber is called fattoush.

Cold appetizers were mostly dips of which hummus and mutabal, made of chickpeas and eggplant, respectively, are already known to most diners. The discovery that day was the labneh with garlic, a dip made by filtering or straining yogurt overnight in the refrigerator, withdrawing curd, and finally. Of course, that will mean you don't overdo the bread consumption (e.g. pita, bread), and you will because these are freshly baked by the chef. Then there was mujaddarah right, a dip made of lentil, and labneh ba' ain that looked more like a salad made with green beans.

Hot appetizers began with chicken liver, which made me cuddly because it was the most memorable of the dishes in Bahrain. Why is it that Middle Eastern cooking makes liver taste so good? Then there were the meat pies, very much like our empanada. And a dish curiously named shishow wing Parmesan, which the chef explained was Mediterranean, stemming from the Middle East in part of that region and how many places in Lebanon took on French names when the French occupied the country.

Soups of lentils came next, and then the main courses, which, by the time these arrived, we felt too full to really enjoy such as the lamb crusted rice, chicken Anaar and grilled seafood.

Fresh-cut fruits made the chef reminisce about the many fruits Lebanese has and how these are sold in wholesale quantity rather than per piece. The country, he claimed, can boast of the biggest grapes and watermelon that can weigh as much as 35 kilos. Desserts also included Baklava and cut oil, their version of bread pudding.

But while he plans for home, chef Mish Elzahdi considers this country his home, too, since he has been working here since the '80s under the likes of chefs Hiller Klug and Roland Hix.

And his expressions reveal just how long he has stayed here, his conversation spilled with Tagalog words like "sino ito." He loves preparing tuna, Bicol Express, adobo and pinakbet. Of our cooking, it is chicken inasal that he says is similar to Lebanese marinated chicken.

In spite of the long list of dishes he will do at SDM, he still hopes he can do the vine-wrapped appetizer. There are no cupfuls of vine leaves, he said. But he will be cooking and replenishing to queen dishes they may not know looking at the menu, it would indeed be good to know and taste what Ishtek is, and the dessert...plus!

Call New World at tel. 8500888. E-mail pinoyfood@yahoo.com.

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bonnie E. Velarde

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Zac on superstardom, Lindsay on Liz, Sam on life in NY

HOLLYWOOD heartthrob Zac Efron, 23, speaking at the London premiere of his new romantic drama "The Lucky One," on his superstar status: "I got to do this in a very lucky way, that it wasn't the actor way, you know what I mean? I would call what I had very much a baby break. So, my goal over the past few years has been to ... really learn about my craft, and prove to myself that it wasn't just a fluke." AFP

• • •

Lindsay Lohan on the New York press, about playing Elizabeth Taylor in "Liz and Dick," a TV movie starring producers in June: "I have always admired and had enormous respect for Elizabeth Taylor. She was not only an incredible actress but an amazing woman as well. I am very honored ... to play this role." AFP

• • •

Sam Milby on life as a struggling actor in New York City: "I ride the subway every day. February I spent mainly on auditions. March was more on meetings."

He hasn't secured his next project yet, but he's been busy with Manila: "I feel so sure that, despite moving here, my career will continue to progress in the Philippines. We're planning a release and movie later this year."

He recently scored an endorsement deal for Samsung Galaxy Y Duos, a very useful gadget, he says: "I ride the subway every day on the app Subway Maps is a big help." He hasn't made much headway in the city that never sleeps, but hopes it will happen soon: "I take my time. They are supposedly all big dreams."

Oh, and he's not unaware: "She's a queen. Pinay, German, Dutch, Irish, Asian. She does modeling here."

SAM MILBY

Newfound ways into style with Bench MasterCard

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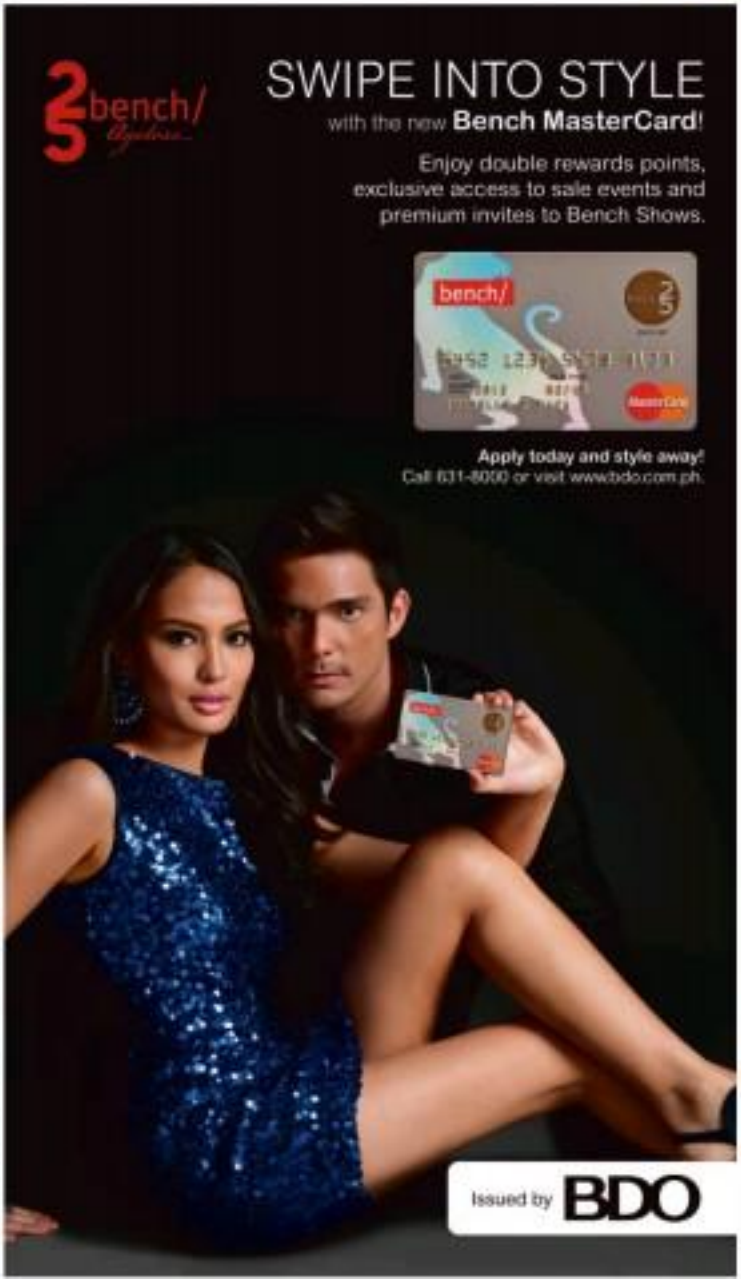

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6 PH films in Hawaii

AS PART of the fourth Filipino Film Festival in Hawaii, six films are being shown at the Honolulu Museum of Art/Doris Duke Theater until April 29. the documentaries "Dream of My Life" by Lyn Bernice Brown and "The Gift of Baring: A Journey From 'Pitchin'" by Benita Ramirez, the fiction films "Ang Sayaw ng Dalawang Kalimang Dan" by Alvin Yapan and Alemberg Ang, "Teorbat" by Zwick Chan, "Pintakasi" by Pebon Cigaña and Lee Meily, and "Boundary" by Rocanta. Reported Sam Briggs Jr.

Did You Know...

I LIKED the more interesting and humorous weekend. I spent Saturday in concert at one of the most breathtakingly beautiful performance spaces that I've ever had the pleasure of singing in, and Sunday enjoying the evening in one of the entertainment capitals of the world. Those two venues are only a couple of hours apart by car, but worlds away from one another as far as what the eye can see.

Natural splendor

When I first visited the state of Utah for my concerts in the city of Provo, I met with the faculty of the theater department at Brigham Young University. They told me about a performance space called the Utah Shakespeare Festival in Cedar City, Utah. They described the red rocks, tall and majestic, that create a natural acoustic wonder. I nodded and said, "Oh" quite a few times, without realizing just how stunning this venue would be.

On Saturday afternoon, I had a sound check scheduled at the amphitheater. My cousin Lou, along with friends Ida and Fletcher, headed there together. From the moment we left our hotel, there was red rock wherever everywhere, but as we got closer to the venue, that's when I couldn't

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'Vietnam Lost Films' on History

ONE OF the most iconic world chapters in Amer our history comes to lig on "Vietnam Lost Film running on Science T April 30 to May 2 at 9:0

With unreleased "Vi rare War footage from pr vate collections, mu sium, organizations, fi US government and ne organizations, plus in music from the war c the documentary follo 13 individuals who fl to tell their stories. It d cusses major battles ca as Hamburger Hill and t Cambodian Incursion.

Members of the U forces who served (cuse death sentence include marine Karl Ma James, whose 2010 m el, "Matterhorn," is co tailored one of the fir books written about t Vietnam War; doct Arthur Pekkel, who l his squad to safety du ing the 93-day assault Hamburger Hill; an African-American ar sergeant Charles Rose who led missio through the deadly jo gles of Pleiku and D Ia.

Famous voices

Women who battled on the in the war also recou their experiences. Ar nurse Elizabeth Allen w given Purple Heart d nationally noted Dust ing the Tet Offensive, n Anne Purcell, wife of t highest-ranking Army of ost, struggled as her hu band was held as a priso er of war in Vietnam.

Golden Globe winn Richard C. Hall narrat the six-hour series, whi also features the voices Edward Burns, Kevin Co nolly, Jerry Ferrara, Ad an Gerdes, Jennifer Lo Hewitt, Zachary Levi a Blair Underwood.

"Hickey is available
(SkyCable Ch 23; Cablelink Ch 44; Destec Ch 30; De top Cable Ch 57.)

Unexpected wonders

I didn't have much time to get settled, as my entertainment evening would begin in earnest not an hour later. My host guide would be my friend and former "Cinderella" leading man Peter Salde. He had prepared everything and all I would do was call with it.

First, we paid a visit to a local production of "Cinderella" that was having its last performance in nearby Henderson, Nevada. Thanks to director Louisa and her assistant Ariel for letting us my ballet! Seen on our agenda was a show called "Dahlins," a ballroom-style revue with leggy dancers and splendiferous costumes. I remember seeing a similar show the first time I was in Vegas.

Nowadays, the entertainment on the strip consists of stand-up comedians, singers, and theatrical productions like "The Phantom of the Opera," "Seven Steps," and "Blue Man Group," plus Cirque du Soleil shows like "O" and "Mystere." I am told that "Dahlins," a revue, is a revamp in Vegas. This translates to: "Well not quite." I think the fact that many of the dancers are topless adds to the show's appeal. There is a saxophone version that plays once a week.

The production value is incredibly high. I can't remember how many times I gasped—at a gorgeous headpiece, a strike pose of warmth, the glitzy backdrop, the high kicks, a male-to-female costume change, the amazing tourists acts (a balancing duet, a personal juggler, and an acrobat). Yes, I admit, the show leaves dazed, drawn to the backdrop, lavish orchestrations and vocal arrangements. But there is a chasm to how everything is put together—Gershwin, Porter, even Sondheim—and that made me smile.

To be quite honest, it is easy to forget that the girls on stage are topless. I did like, though, that the girls were "natural," meaning, no breast augmentations. I was told that anyone who has breast implants need not apply for a slot, as the show is a celebration of the natural woman.

Later we had dinner at Yao, at the Palazzo. The restaurant is a work of art, with beautiful pieces hanging on the walls and the ceiling. The food was very, very good.

Now I'm back in the big Apple. I am appearing in Scott Alan's concert on April 30 at Shetland and at solo concerts on May 4 at Town Hall and May 5 in Troy, New York. What's on my agenda here besides work? I'm hellbent on seeing as many Broadway shows in 1 day, and spending time with friends. I am one lucky girl.

Summer movie hits on SKY

THERE monsters Mockbusters await the whole family via SKYCable Platinum (your basic plan plus HBO Pak, which includes HBO Signature, HBO Hits and HBO Family). "Much Ado About Nothing"—starring Kenneth Branagh, Keanu Reeves, Emma Thompson, Denzel Washington and Kate Beckinsale—premieres on Signature tomorrow at 10 p.m. On April 29 at 7 p.m. "Secondhand Gone"—starring Haley Joel Osment, Michael Caine and Robert Duvall—premieres on Family. Hits premiers "Time Girl"—starring Jeff Bridges—on April 30 at 7 p.m. Call 02-3618800 for Metro Manila, Cavinarea and Rizal, 845-4616763, Cavite, 02-5208560, Laguna, 844-6915877, Batangas, 052-3432278, Cebu, 032-3035818, Davao

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1: BATTLESHIP
2: THE AVENGERS

GREENBELT 3
1: THE AVENGERS
2: THE AVENGERS (3D)
3: THE LUCKY ONE
4: THE AVENGERS (3D)
5: THE AVENGERS

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1: THE AVENGERS
2: THE AVENGERS (3D)
3: THE AVENGERS (3D)
4: THE LUCKY ONE
5: THE AVENGERS

ALABANG CENTER CINE
1: THE AVENGERS (3D)
2: THE LUCKY ONE
3: THE AVENGERS (3D)
4: THE AVENGERS

MARKET!
1: THE AVENGERS
2: THE AVENGERS (3D)
3: THE AVENGERS
4: MORGEN 5 / WRATH OF THE TITANS

MARKET! MARKET!
1: THE AVENGERS (3D)
2: THE AVENGERS
3: BATTLESHIP
4: THE AVENGERS (3D)
5: THE AVENGERS
6: THE AVENGERS
7: THE LUCKY ONE

TRINOMA
1: THE AVENGERS
2: THE AVENGERS/BATTLESHIP
3: THE AVENGERS (3D)
4: THE AVENGERS (3D)
5: THE LUCKY ONE
6: THE AVENGERS
7: THE AVENGERS

ABREEZA
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2: THE AVENGERS
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4: THE LUCKY ONE

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A thoroughly indie Pinay

Marife Necesito has acted with Gael García Bernal and Michelle Williams

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

HERE IS a filmography that even big local mainstream stars would surely envy: Marife Necesito shared the screen with international icons Michelle Williams and Gael García Bernal in Lukas Moodysson's "Mammoth," which debuted at the Berlinale in 2009.

She rapped with the late Heath and road-wrestled with Whitney Tyson in Khavn de la Cruz's "Mondomanila," premiered in Rotterdam this year. She has worked with notable indie filmmakers Lav Diaz ("Melancholia" in Isang Dosenang Pilipinas"), Sari Dalena ("Da Dyesang") and Adolfo Alix Jr. ("Karera").

She has been tapped to appear in Korean ("Tropical Manila"), Dutch ("Like Never Happened"), American ("Darkest Night") and HBO ("Resting Bitch") productions.

Recently, she acted in Pia Arellano's "San Mateo Cenacle" which screens at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York this month.

Finally anyone asked for her autograph, until recently.

When "Mammoth" was shown at the Cine Europa fest in Shangri-La mall, she was mobbed by local film buffs. "I had goose bumps," she said. "It's great to be appreciated in your own country."

"She's intense. She gives her all," said filmmaker Arden del Mundo, who is currently collaborating with Necesito in the stage adaptation of Erenan de la Cruz's Cinemalaya film "Sarong Banggi."

Necesito's own favorite novel, an acid romance-book author before becoming an actress.

Unscripted spiel

"Not being a writer is a big help on the set," said one-liner filmmaker Mark Meredith Reyoked, who directed Necesito in "Sponsor." He added: "My friends couldn't believe her monologue in 'Sponsor' was all her own, not scripted."

Having trained under the late auteurists Cecile Guidote-Alvarez and Angie Ferro, Necesito prefers herself with each new role.

She auditioned for the role of Gloria, the domestic helper of Bernal and Williams, in "Mammoth."

NECESITO, right, and "Sarong Banggi" costar Ruth Joseph

Necesito answered: "Michelle was so intimidated in her role, she'd be in character even off the set chatting with us. Gael was more relaxed. He was very Filipino in his ways, joking around between takes, but once the cameras started grinding, it was as if he was possessed."

She admired the egalitarian system in the foreign productions. "The director wasn't a tyrant at all. He treats all treated equally. Whether you were a utility team or an actor, you were shown respect."

It called to mind a bad experience on the set of the local soap "Stanya," where she was double-lectured by a staffer who said she didn't deserve a dressing room because she was "not famous." Her answer came in her defense. "I'm Angie (Ferro) fought for me."

Speaking of unsupernatural hazards, does she mind that she's branded as a model or a prostitute onscreen?

"I don't mind," she said. "I just make sure that such material or prostitute I play is deliberate. In reality, us two people are similar, even if they're in the same line of work."

In "Sarong Banggi," she again portrays an aging hooker who "breaks in" a teenager (played by Rob Joseph). She also serves as producer for the play, which debuts at Music Box in Quezon City tonight. It will soon be toured in Singapore and Malaysia.

12th 'Earth Day Jam'

By Allen Pollo-arejo

BOOTER rocker Lou Bonnevie has successfully harnessed the power of music to raise environmental awareness and appreciation through "Earth Day Jam."

The annual advocacy concert brings together on stage some of the best local acts, as well as experts and environmentalists who speak about the pandemic that plague Mother Earth. The event is held in conjunction with the nationwide observance of Earth Day every April 6.

"Music is one of the few things that bind people. Put interactive and inspiring messages behind it and you have a powerful medium that can spark change," Bonnevie told the beyonce in a

Kids TV group see networks will cooperate

By Harriet R. Cruz

"THEY were children themselves who now have children of their own. It should not be difficult for (DB-sub to get them to cooperate," National Council for Children's Television (NCCT) chair Meg Cruz Hanol said of TV execs whose networks are being required by law to allot 15 percent of broadcast time to child-friendly programs.

Hanol happily noted the networks' positive response during the recent consultative forum that the NCCT hosted on the drafting of implementing rules and regulations (IRR) for Republic Act No. 8370 or the Children's Television Act of 1997.

First in series

The forum was held at the Bahay ng Alumnae in Pasay City Kalusugan beside the Department of Education complex in Pasig City. It was the first in a series of public consultations on the drafting of the IRR. Similar events are set on May 4 in Baguio City; May 8, Iloilo City; and May 10, Davao City.

Stakeholders

Hanol told the forum that all stakeholders—parents, educators, faith groups, child-focused agencies and, of course, the networks—will be asked for their inputs.

"This is so that we can all be happy in executing the law," Hanol said.

Child psychologist Lucille Cinco-dang thought the forum was "very successful." She explained: "Everyone seemed to have understood that TV is very powerful and that the child's mind is very vulnerable to what TV produces."

Child rep

During the open forum, Hope Immediate Past Chair Dr. Lucille Cinco-dang thought the forum was "very successful." She explained: "Everyone seemed to have understood that TV is very powerful and that the child's mind is very vulnerable to what TV produces."

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A LITTLE — BY JESS ABRERA

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DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CLARK

LOVE-MONSTS — BY ELIZABETH HORNGLED

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SEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

HUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DUSTIN — BY STEVE KELLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TUNDRA — BY IVAN COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

THIS WEEK TODAY You are very [illegible] Monday. Tuesday is a [illegible] Wednesday, something exciting, you [illegible] Thursday, [illegible] You also have the [illegible] and [illegible] You [illegible] Friday, [illegible] You [illegible] Saturday, [illegible] You [illegible] Sunday, [illegible]

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your home routine will be interrupted today. Small appliances could break down, or your neighbors could move. Remember to be extra patient with family members.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're an excellent person to be in your city, so slow down and take it easy. Be very aware of everything you say and do. Allow extra time to explain clearly.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Keep an eye on your money and your possessions today. You might find money, you might lose money. Guard what you own against loss or theft. It's a challenging day.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You feel rebellious today. You're only this in a good way. An important discussion with authority figures, instead of following, you'll be right beside.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You feel ambitious today. It's as if you'd accomplish more than anything else. Be careful, or you'll be [illegible] Someone else feels a lot like this as well. Work together.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) You're obsessed with control, especially in a group situation. You'll have no trouble. Be sensitive; a friend could really appreciate you. Be considerate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) It's not easy dealing with authority figures today, especially female authority figures. Handle with [illegible] Therefore, avoid them if you can.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your plans and anything that has to do with [illegible] might be delayed or [illegible] Delay decisions [illegible] It's [illegible] Work hard on things today.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are in an [illegible] You're [illegible] Between unexpected changes with [illegible] Be [illegible] Unexpected property inheritances, loans, and debt are likely. Some [illegible]

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Problems with partners and other friends are pretty likely today. Tactless, bossing, ahead of time, wise and take things light. Don't [illegible] [illegible]

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) High-tech problems, computer crashes, canceled appointments and staff shortages are likely to [illegible] Something will affect your routine — learn to [illegible]

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) This is an excellent time for you to [illegible] Between the extra [illegible] Be aware of what they are doing and [illegible] Even those [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] today as well.

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Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. For more [illegible] at www.sudoku.com

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Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Clarke

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	5			3			2	
	1		4		2		6	
8		1				5		3
7		9				4		2
	2		8		3		9	
	9			5			4	
3								8

Difficulty Level ★★★

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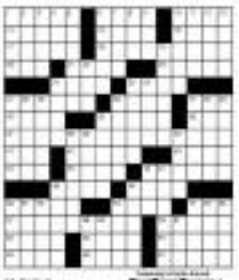

12th 'Earth...

From page F1

recent press con.

Benavente stressed that learning about our environment doesn't have to be tedious. She recalled being invited to perform in an Earth Day celebration at the Quezon Memorial Circle in 1998. "I found the event enlightening but I thought it could use a little more pep. There wasn't much of a crowd participating. The people present were really just the environmentalists ... the goal is for everyone to join."

Thus motivated Benavente to organize her show that would promote the advocacy. She consulted the late environmentalist Gilmore Abcarian and, in 2000, received the first "Earth Day Jam" which she called "Earth Jam" in Cubao. The gig featured Joeboy's Cradle, Parokya and the Manila Youth Symphony Orchestra.

PHOTO

Open heart

"I've realized that you don't have to be an expert to help," she said. "You only need an open heart."

In 2007, Benavente received the 9th Gawad Kalasag for Environmental Protection from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Unesco, the Climate Institute and Department of Education.

In its 12th edition, "Earth Day Jam" will be held on Saturday, 6 p.m. at the 9th Avenue, Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. The concert is expected to close till the wee hours. Music lovers can expect a mix of genres ranging from reggae and ska to alternative rock and acoustic.

Joining Benavente on Neal Cabangon, Radiocentrico Ingco Project, Free Fields, Sticks, Juris, Sino Siklab, Bloodbirdfish, Imago, Mayonnaise, Ojhrai, Tanya Markovic, Franz Pipe, Stylo Mara and Gallivix, H Maslivius, and many others.

Benavente says, representatives from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and other government agencies will give short talks and play videos about their latest projects, and other such related topics.

MOOs like Greenpeace will set up booths where people can sign up for various campaigns, and purchase organic food and products.

Kids TV group...

From page F1

programs' ratings, and indicate their child-viewing hours should be from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

National Statistics Council officer Monina Encina recommended review using of "substances" on the ill-effects of cigarettes and alcohol, and the negative consequences of eating unhealthy food.

Join hands

Former Statistician of Commission for Children and the Arts executive director Cecile Guidote-Alvarez suggested that the NCCT join hands with Interkultura promoting the same areas to disseminate information about the law.

Read said the NCCT was aware of the difficulties that TV stations might have in producing more child-focused shows. "It will require a lot of funding," he said. "They have the will, that's for sure, but we all know how the spirit is often willing, but the flesh is weak, so to speak."

Networking

"We know we should network with a lot of other groups regarding the IRR," Cannedoy added. "Many stations are fighting for child protection on their own, we just have to tap them, harness their resources."

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Foreign stars applaud gay revue

THE CAST of "Mamma Mia" stopped by and partied after the six-month run at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. More recently, the theater stars of the Hollywood production "The Bourne Legacy" watched the show and stayed till the wee hours dancing with the gay revue's eccentric performers.

Bob's Bistro, Club Mundo owners and managers Cris Nicolas and Rochelle Mallillin said, they were "very happy, and very proud."

Not much less surrounded the visits of the "Mamma Mia" group, Mallillin told the tourists. "They came, they watched, and they generously posed for snapshots with every body who wants," he said.

The "Bourne" group was more meticulous. Mallillin recounted: "An advance party from the local production, Philippine Film Studios, alerted us that a group of 25 stars on their way (in the club) at 602 Bistro Inn in Mandaluyong). We immediately reserved five tables near the stage."

The party included Hollywood producer Patrick Crowley (Universal Pictures), Philippine Film Studios' Joe Aiken and director Tony Gilroy, and Mallillin. The biggest thrill for the fellas de Mesa was performing for lead stars Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz and Edward Norton.

"My Prince told me that Club Ideals was really part of his discovery," Mallillin related. "She said some friends of hers had come to the club's before."

The production couples that the "Bourne" group applauded the most was the spoof of the famous helicopter scene from "Miss Saigon," reported Mallillin. "But the Crowley was hooked over by the costumes and silk strapless in the "Indian Suite."

CBE Nicolas, left, and Rochelle Mallillin, right, with "Mamma Mia" stars Rosie Heath (in white) and Charlotte Wakefield

"PHANTOM of the Opera" spoof

A THRILLED Heidi performer

Nicolas, also the drama-choreographer, was reportedly magnetized by the guests from Hollywood. Mallillin said, "Cris' Samba Kiri and Femi LaBelle impressions were acclaimed that night. The other girls—and guys—who did Jennifer Hudson, Beyonce and Christina Aguilera totally went to town!"

The "Bourne" cast joined the other tourists in the audience in giving the Pollies a standing ovation, Mallillin said.

But what, no snapshots? "They enjoyed their drinks, too, and begged off," he replied, laughing.